1876-77

R.M.H.S. RESOURCE CENTER
READING, MASS.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Receipts and Expenditures

OF THE

TOWN OF READING,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1877,

COMPRISING THE

REPORTS OF THE TOWN CLERK, TREASURER, COLLECTOR,
SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS, OVERSEERS OF THE POOR,
SCHOOL COMMITTEE, ROAD COMMISSIONERS,
ENGINEERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT,
TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY,
TRUSTEES OF CEMETERY
AND AUDITORS.

READING:
NEWS AND CHRONICLE JOB PRINT.
1877.

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READING:
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1877.

TOWN OFFICERS, 1876--77.

Town Clerk.

WILLIAM J. WIGHTMAN.

Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor.

JOSEPH L. PRATT, J. B. LEATHE, JAMES REID.

Treasurer.

JAMES A. BANCROFT.

Collector.

W. WALLACE DAVIS.

School Committee.

CARROLL D. WRIGHT, CHAIRMAN, (resigned Sept. 8.)	term expires,	1878
WALTER S. PARKER CHAIRMAN from Sept. 8,	" "	1877
SOLON BANCROFT,	" "	1878
WILLIAM F. DURGIN,	" "	1879
W. WALLACE DAVIS, (elected to fill vacancy,)	" "	1877
GEORGE T. DOLE, " " " "	" "	1877
JOHN O. DOW, (declined)		
HORACE G. WADLIN, SECRETARY,	" "	1879

Road Commissioners.

JAMES A. BANCROFT, CHAIRMAN,	term expires,	1878
CHARLES A. WESTON,	" "	1879
HENRY S. LACLAIR,	" "	1877

Board of Health.

JOSEPH L. PRATT, J. B. LEATHE, JAMES REID.

Engineers of Fire Department.

CHARLES H. LANG, CHIEF,

CHARLES H. DANFORTH, DAVID CROWELL,
EDWARD C. NICHOLS, DANIEL CREESY.

Sealer of Weights and Measures.

DANIEL B. LOVEJOY.

Constables.

HUBBARD E. COX, WILLIAM S. CROWE.

Police Officers.

HUBBARD E. COX, WILLIAM S. CROWE. JOHN A. BLUNT,
EDWIN BASSETT, WILLIAM FROST.

Trustees of Public Library.

EDWARD APPLETON, CHAIRMAN,	term expires	1878
HIRAM BARRUS,	" "	1879
WILLIAM PROCTOR,	" "	1879
F. O. DEWEY,	" "	1878
STEPHEN FOSTER,	" "	1877
F. H. KNIGHT,	" "	1877

Trustees of Cemetery.

SOLON BANCROFT,	" "	1879
F. H. KNIGHT,	" "	1879
F. O. DEWEY,	" "	1878
G. C. GLEASON,	" "	1878
T. B. PRATT,	" "	1877
W. S. RICHARDSON,	" "	1877

Auditors.

WILLIAM PROCTOR, FRANCIS BARTLEY, FREDERICK BANCROFT.

Town Clerk's Report.

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN READING IN 1875.

(OMITTED LAST YEAR.)

DATE.	NAMES.	SEX.	NAMES OF PARENTS.	OCCUPATION OF FATHER.
May 12	Sarah Temple Wight	F	Ephraim and Helen	Carpenter
June 23	Ralph Emerson Gleason	M	Rodney H and Julia R	Cabinet maker

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN READING IN 1876.

DATE.	NAMES.	SEX.	NAMES OF PARENTS.	OCCUPATION OF FATHER.
Jan 20	John Weston Gleason	M	John C. and Harriet L	Coal dealer
29	Nichols	M	Charles N. and Etta D	Clerk
Feb. 3	Jennie Grace Warren	F	John P. and Clara J.	Organ pipe maker
20	Luly Blanche Taylor	F	Charles and Emma A.	Horse dealer
25	Etta May Gerritson	F	William D. and Mary F	Cabinet maker
Mar 2	Henrietta Symonds	F	Henry W. and Mary A	Mechanic
5	Clinton Lewis Bancroft	M	Lewis M. and Annie B	Carpenter
10	Fred Abbott Nichols	M	Richard B and JosephineA	Farmer
12	Sarah Ethel Cook	F	John F. and Phebe A	Shoe manufact'er
14	Clarence H. Lachance	M	Henry W. and Effie A	Mechanic
17	James Levi Penney	M	and Sarah L	
29	John Frederick Hock	M	Henry and Caroline	Cabinet maker
Apr 12	George Bradford Frost	M	Joseph B. and Augusta A	Agent
12	Marion Little Eames	F	Leonard T. and Emily M	Mechanic
18	Josephine Nelson Hayward	F	Warren and Elizabeth	Carpenter
May 3	Clara Louena Daland	F	George H. and Clara G.	Mechanic
10	Joseph Elmer Marshall	M	Joseph and Mary M.	Mason
11	Christian Emanuel Rahr	M	Christian E. and Emma I	Custom House
11	James	M	John H. and Rosa A	Fireman on R. R
12	Ada Florence Skilton	F	Jonathan and Caroline A	Farmer
24	Bertha Lucy Brown	F	Francis F. and Emma M	Physician
25	Mary Washburn Horton	F	James A and Mary P	Cabinet maker
28	Francie Lorie Porter	F	Simon and Judith	Carpenter
June 7	Lillian Welch Temple	F	William H. and Ruth A	Auctioneer
12	Arthur Edward Newell	M	Benjamin F. and L. Maria	Agent
13	Temple	M	Clarkson W. and Elizabeth	Musician
30	Leslie Lucius Turner	M	Lucius and Mary F.	Salesman
July 5	Mary Nancy Barstow	F	Charles F. and Nancy J	Mariner
15	Walter Gates Nowell	M	Charles H. and Anna M	Clerk
18	Ralph Dexter Niles	M	Samuel D. and Lovina D	Manufacturer
22	Ruby Rebecca Cook	F	George F. and Augusta A	Blacksmith
29	Charles Francis Totten	M	Robert C. and Mary A	Blacksmith
Aug 4	Wilber Irving Broad	M	Nathaniel W. and Mary E	Carpenter
4	Emma May Wethern	F	George M. and Mrs.	Merchant
6	Train Sweetser Hill	M	Charles H. and Fannie I	Cabinet maker
8	Hattie Sifford Harnden	F	Charles E and Carrie E	Mechanic
22	Edward Appleton Brown	M	Henry M. and Martha H	Shoe business

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN READING IN 1876.

DATE.	NAMES.	SEX.	NAMES OF PARENTS.	OCCUPATION OF FATHER.
Sep. 4	Edith May Dow	F	John O. and Francis A	Physician
7	Gertrude Louise Pease	F	William S. and Julia M	Agent
11	Wendell Irving Bancroft	M	Albert J. and Sarah J	Carpenter
Oct. 11	William James Maynard	M	William and Caroline	Stable keeper
13	Marion Nichols Sargent	F	George A. and Josephine	Mechanic
14	Lucy Mary Carleton	F	James H. and Lucy M	Merchant
14	Chas. Morton Easterbrooks	M	John G. and Ariminta J	R. R. Conductor
19	Joseph White	M	Samuel and Jane	Fisherman
23	Ralph Walter Parker	M	Walter S. and Belle M	Teacher
Nov. 4	Thomas Pearson Hussey	M	T. W. H. and Gertrude K	Teacher
16	Florence Manning	F	Edwin and Frankie H	Cabinet manuf'er
18	Arthur Stearns Willis	M	Octavus N. and Martha B	Carpenter
22	William O'Brien	M	James and Mary A.	Mechanic
25	Josephine Ardell Sweetser	F	Kirk and Delia E	Farmer
26	Nellie Maria Francis	F	Oscar F. and Sarah L	Tallow chandler
Dec. 2	Daniel Farrington	M	Patrick and Ellen	Laborer
5	Abbie Janette Richardson	F	Jason W. and Mary C	Shoe manufact'er
8	Thomas Henry Day	M	Arthur B. and Nellie E	Carriage painter
15	Myers	M	Charles and Louisa J	Mechanic
17	Margaret Culenen	F	Jeremiah and Catherine	R. R. Repairs
17	Temple	F	Joseph S. and Lucia M	Merchant
24	Beatrice Azalea Gilson	F	F. Howard and Emily I	Farmer
25	Hale	M	A. G. R. and Julia H	Lawyer
27	Maud Evelyn Merrill	F	George jr. and Lucy I	Clerk
27	Loring	M	Gustavus and Mary E	Carpenter

Number of births registered for the year 1876, 62; Males 33—Females 29.

NATIVITY OF PARENTS—United States,	Father,	51	Mother,	51
Foreign	Father,	11	Mother,	11

MARRIAGES REGISTERED IN READING IN 1876.

DATE.	NAME OF GROOM AND BRIDE.	AGE.	RESIDENCE.	OCCUPATION OF GROOM.	PLACE OF BIRTH.	NAME OF PARENTS.	BY WHOM MARRIED.
Jan 6	Henry L. Carter	24	Wilmington	Butcher	Wilmington	Jonathan L. and Mary G	Rev. William Barrows
	Lottie A. Bird	25	Wilmington		Boston	Elijah and Martha	
27	John Perkins	39	Minot, Me	Farmer	Hebron, Me	Josiah and Mary A.	" James K. Ewer
	Caroline E. Oliver	35	Wakefield		Melrose	William and Sarah	
Feb 10	J. William Cutts	22	Stoneham	Shoemaker	New London, N. H.	Joel D. and Barbara	" William H. Hatch
	Susan Collicut	28	Stoneham		Eastport, Me	John and Olive	
12	Charles O. Ames	52	Woburn	Farmer	Woburn	Robert and Lucy	" James K. Ewer
	Sarah C. Knapp	37	Woburn		Georgetowu	John and Sarah C	
Mar 24	William H. Kingman	23	Reading	Shoe manuf'r	New York City, N.Y	Henry W. and Martha C	" L. W. Spring
	Cora Ella Flint	20	Reading		Middleton	Jeremiah and Harriet S	
Apr 4	William E Beard	24	Reading	Jeweller	Reading	Benjamin E. and Lucy A	" L. W. Spring
	Flora M. Kimball	23	Reading		Reading	James D. and Nancy	
10	Charles C. Green	44	Reading	Shoemaker	East Cambridge	Phineas and Clarissa	" James K. Ewer
	Jane Bowden	34	Reading		Cape Neck, Me	Abraham and Olive	
19	Everett T. Perry	21	Reading	Brakeman	Framingham	Job T. and Catherine E	" William Barrows
	Hattie A. Bancroft	20	Reading		Reading	James and Sarah	
20	Rufus B. Wright	40	Reading	Horse dealer	Littleton	Ithamer and Patty	" E. B. Fairchild
	Jennie F. Brown	32	Reading		Sackville, N. B.	Charles C. and Jennie	
23	Edwin S. McGrigor	23	Reading	Painter	Wales, G. B	Alexander and Minnie M.	" William H. Willcox
	Francilla M. Bickford	23	Lowell		Lowell	Allen P. and Mary A.	
May 1	William H. Hatch	69	Reading	Clergyman	Pittston, Me	William and Rachel	" C. L Eastman,
	Sophronia A. Walker	47	Boston		Wrentham	Benjamin and Phebe	[Boston
2	Charles H. Allen	23	Reading	Merchant	Reading	John A. and Charlotte D.	" William H. Willcox
	Hattie B. Pratt	21	Reading		Reading	Stillman M. and Harriet M.	
4	Herbert E. Nichols	22	Reading	Milkman	Reading	J. Brooks and Caroline E.	" Clark Carter,
	Clara A. Swain	21	Wilmington		Wilmington	Levi and Louisa	[Lawrence
June 1	Charles E. Tucker	29	Reading	Book keeper	Boston	William and Mary L	" Warren H Cudworth
	Annie E. S. Fisher	32	Reading		Chelsea	Thomas B. and Hannah	[East Boston
14	Frank W. Parker	26	Reading	Hair dresser	Reading	Jerome and Elizabeth A	" William H. Willcox
	Ella J. Beard	20	Reading		Boston	Eben and Mary J	

MARRIAGES REGISTERED IN READING IN 1876.

DATE.	NAME OF GROOM AND BRIDE.	AGE.	RESIDENCE.	OCCUPATION OF GROOM.	PLACE OF BIRTH.	NAMES OF PARENTS.	BY WHOM MARRIED.
Jun. 28	George W. Goodrich	38	Beverly	Watchman	Manchester	Samuel and Deborah	Rev. William Barrows
	Sarah A. Sweetser	37	Reading		Reading	Thomas H and Mary N	
July 8	James Sullivan	50	Reading	Laborer	Ireland	James and Mary	., M. F. Flatley,
	Alice Brown	40	Reading		Ireland	Michael and Kate	[Wakefield
27	Addison G. Scott	21	Reading	Mechanic	Reading	Charles H. and Mary S	" Alexander Blakie,
	Lenore F. Cordwell	19	Reading		Nova Scotia	James E. and Isabella B	[Boston
27	Charles E. Davis	28	New York City	Salesman	Ashby	John U. and Sarah E	" William H. Hatch
	Delia M. Willis	23	Wakefield		Wakefield	William H. and Abigail A.	
Aug 2	Arthur B. Day	21	Reading	Carriage	Reading	Thomas C. and Elizabeth B	" Quincy Whitney
	Nellie A. Beard	20	Reading	Painter	Reading	Henry and Helen F	[Wakefield
2	Eben Pitman	24	Douglas	Tailor	Barnstead, N. H	Edward and Ann S	" A. J. Canney.
	Emma F. Pratt	26	Reading		Reading	Lyman and Mary E	[Whitinsville
5	John J. Leathe	29	Stoneham	Laborer	Cambridge	William F. and Margaret J	" William H. Hatch
	Charlotte B. Emerson	34	Stoneham		St. Johnsbury, Vt	Paul and Catherine	
15	Joseph D. Gowing	33	North Reading	Farmer	North Reading	Jacob and Lucinda D	" William H. Willcox
	Mary A. Whitcomb	24	North Reading		North Danvers	Jared C. and Sarah J	
23	William Clark	32	Londonderry	Farmer	Londonderry, N. H	Reed P. and Elizabeth P	" William Barrows
	Alice W. McIntire	24	Reading		North Reading	Amos and Mary G	
25	Albert A. Ritchie	22	Wakefield	Moulder	Boston	Alfred A. and Katie	" William H. Willcox
	Rosa L. West	19	Lynnfield		Lynnfield	Thomas P. and Sarah R.	
29	George A. Jones	41	Reading	Butcher	Weld. Me	Jacob and Almira	" J. W. Kingsbury,
	Sarah A. Flint	41	North Reading		North Reading	Abijah and Fanny	[No. Reading
Sept 5	James A. Bancroft	42	Reading	Shoe manu'er	Reading	James H. and Emily J	" J. N. Rich, Guil'ord,
	Bessie R. Potter	36	Guilford, N. H		Guilford, N. H	Thomas and Patience	[N. H
7	Clarence W. Mason	23	Reading	Carpenter	North Reading	Ozro and Eliza A.	" Mortimer Blake,
	Emma J. Mathews	18	Taunton		Fall River	George and Marion	[Taunton
11	Edwin H. Goodwin	22	Reading	Mechanic	Dorchester	Daniel E. and Sarah J	" S. J. Foljambe,
	Martha S. Ballard	22	Reading		Reading	George and Elizabeth	[Malden
Oct 8	Melvin H. Loud	22	Gt Falls, N. H	Baggage	Newfield, Me	Edward H. and Esther F	" E B. Fairchild
	Harriet I. LaClair	20	Reading	master	Reading	Henry S. and Harriet E.	

Oct 21	William W. Carter	30	Wilmington	Farmer	Wilmington	Otis and Abby A.	"	James K. Ewer
	Sarah L. Fortis	23	Wilmington		Wilmington	William and Mary A		
31	Geo'ge E. Abbott	26	Reading	Architect	Reading	Levi and Phebe	"	William Barrows
	Martha Josie Kingman	25	Reading		New York City	Henry W. and Martha C		
Nov 27	Elmore Parker	24	Reading	Clerk	Reading	Loea and Adelaine B.	"	William H. Hatch
	Emma Armstrong	24	Reading		Machias, Me	John and Lizzie		
30	John H. Knights	28	Reading	Butcher	Reading	John and Mary	"	William J. Batt, [Stoneham
	Gertrude Bloomer	27	Stoneham		Stoneham	William T. and Amelia F		
30	Towle Currier	24	Norwood	Stove dealer	Lowell	Samuel H. and Sarah A	"	James K. Ewer
	Rose Hoyt	23	Lawrence		Corrina, Me	Nathan P. and Katurah L.		
Dec 13	John E. Webster	30	Derry, N. H.	Farmer	Derry, N. H	James and Maria	"	P. M. Macdonald
	Cornelia S. Case	25	Reading		Mariaville, Me	Sherman H. and Eliza M		
19	Eben J. Williams	22	Reading	Apothecary	Freetown	Jerome and Mary B	"	H. K. Pervear, [Cambridge
	Pauline A. Bowen	20	Cambridgeport		Worcester	Truman and Margaret		
23	George W. C. Bliss	24	Stoneham	Shoemaker	Longmeadow	Edwin and Harriet	"	William H. Hatch
	Pamela F. Hadley	18	Stoneham		Stoneham	and Mehitable		
27	Earl J. Ricker	24	Reading	Tallow chan-	Charlestown	Jethro H. and Mary A	"	E. G. Smith, Essex
	Annie C. Marshall	22	Essex	[dler	Essex	William and Mary A		
31	George H. Parker	38	Reading	Organ pipe	Reading	Samuel and Harriet B	"	J. Peterson,
	Rachel E Knight	28	Wakefield	[maker	Boothbay, Me	Charles and Mary A.		[Wakefield

Whole number of Marriages registered in Reading for the year 1876, 40

NATIVITY OF PERSONS MARRIED.

United States,	Males,	38	Females,	37
Foreign,	"	2	"	3

DEATHS REGISTERED IN READING IN 1876.

DATE.		NAMES.	AGE. Y	M	D	NAMES OF PARENTS OR HUSBAND.	CAUSE.
Jan.	5	Julia P. Eaton	74			Benjamin and Mary Pratt	Pneumonia
	14	Clarence W. Cummings		5	7	Charles W. and Susan	Tubercular Meningitis
	25	Ida Bancroft	18	1	11	Newton and Selina	Consumption
	29	Nichols				Charles N. and Etta D	Still born
Feb.	13	Sarah A. Robinson	60		5	Ezra B. Robinson	Congestion of lungs
March	4	Caleb Wakefield	90	10	15	Timothy and Susannah B.	Old age
	25	Otis Wakefield	72	8	6	Timothy and Betsey	Old age
April	4	John Kimball	81	4	26	Joshua and Elizabeth	Calculus of bladder
	6	Emma M. Lambert	3	10	29	Napoleon and Adile	Diptheria
May	11	James	I N	F A	N T	John and Rosa A	
	16	Louisa Tucker	63	8		Joseph and Lucy Symeston	Chronic rheumatism
	21	Nellie J. Fox	24	2	21	Eli E. Fox	Pneumonia—congestion of lungs
June	12	Lena M. Leathe		5	21	William H. and Almer E.	Tubercular meningitis
	21	Celia A. Walker	35	3	2	Major and Betsey Phillips	Consumption
	25	Fred. B. Goucher	1	5		James and Abbie	Consumption
July	13	Eugene Dejean	53	3			Apoplexy
	18	Frederick A. Stearns	31	10	20	Alfred M. and Martha C	Consumption
	20	Jonathan Cook	77	5	18	Jonathan and Betsey	Old age
	29	Henry M. Wiggins		8	29	James F. and Etta M	Cholera infantum
	31	Isaac Adams	83			David and Phebe	Old age—hernia
August	5	Sumner Cheney	70	6	27	Jacob and Nancy	Dysentery
	7	Rosa A. James	27	5	22	John H. James	General debility
	26	Elizabeth R. Damon	34		17	Albert P. Damon	Cerebro spinal meningitis
	31	Clarence H. Lachance		5	17	Henry W. and Effie A	Inflamatory diarreah

Sept. 8	Moses Mears	49	1	29	Dire and Sarah	Accidental
9	Miranda L. McIntire	83			John McIntire	Old age
16	Isaac Johnson	63	1	15	Edward and Zebiah	Cancer of liver
22	Richard E. Dustin	65			Samuel and	Dysentery
October 12	Berthia Nichols	84	10	10	John and Jerusha	Old age—dysentery
18	Mary S. Putnam	30	2	4	Daniel Putnam	Typhoid fever
November 19	Thomas Sweetser	80	10	25	Thomas and Sarah	Disease of heart
25	Florence Manning			8	Edwin and Frankie	Lung disease
December 15	Myers				Charles and Louisa J	Still born
23	Louisa J. Myers	26		2	Charles Myers	Erysipelas
27	Loring				Gustavus and Mary E	Still born

Whole number of deaths registered for the year 1876, 35. Males, 20. Females, 15.

Nativity—Reading, 19. Other towns in U. S., 15. Foreign, 1.

WILLIAM J. WIGHTMAN, Town Clerk.

Receipts and Expenditures.

ALMSHOUSE.	Dr.	
To amount of inventory March 1st., 1876,	$2448	81
groceries,	318	39
flour and bread,	189	09
grain and meal,	171	58
fish,	15	27
provisions,	220	75
bedding and clothing,	48	42
furniture,	86	44
produce,	11	75
wood and coal,	138	72
wheelwright and blacksmith bills,	33	59
hired labor,	89	75
medicine,	7	60
medical services,	9	50
repairs on buildings,	41	10
farming tools,	9	99
funeral expenses of widow John McIntire,	20	00
sundries,	6	75
salary of keeper,	404	33
		$4271 83

ALMSHOUSE.	Cr.	
By labor on highways,	$162	63
wood sold,	250	50
lighting street lamps,	65	00
cash for board,	224	00
labor,	10	55
boarding horse,	25	50
Amount Carried Forward,	$738	18

Amount Brought Forward,	$738 18	
By clearing snow,	26 00	
stock and produce sold,	42 64	
cash from collection of bills of previous years,	81 00	
lodging and food for 1546 tramps, 40 c. each,	618 40	
Mrs. O'Keefe's pension,	48 00	
Mrs. O'Keefe's state aid,	48 00	
cash for use of cart,	1 75	
inventory of March 1st, 1877,	2516 35	
		$4120 32
Net expense of poor at Almshouse,		$151 51

INVENTORY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY AT ALMSHOUSE MARCH 1st, 1877.

Furniture, crockery and tin ware,	$253 42	
Beds and bedding,	293 10	
Stoves and fixtures,	115 50	
Provisions,	147 79	
Manure,	75 00	
Horse,	200 00	
Cow and heifer,	50 00	
Swine,	69 00	
2 carts,	135 00	
Farm wagon,	80 00	
Light wagon,	65 00	
Stone wagon,	25 00	
Horse sled,	25 00	
Sleigh,	12 00	
Mowing machine,	40 00	
Farming utensils,	217 35	
Hay,	132 00	
Grain and meal,	3 75	
Fowls,	18 00	
Wood and coal,	199 50	
Posts, lumber and bricks,	27 00	
Arches for building cisterns,	10 00	
Bills due for labor, hay, pension, etc.,	322 94	
		$2516 35

NAMES AND AGES OF INMATES AT ALMSHOUSE.

	YEARS.
Widow John McIntire (Died Sept. 9th, 1876.)	82
Miss Caroline Wiley,	70
Alpheus Austin,	57
Catherine O'Keefe,	70
James A. Hunter,	33
John Parker, (Admitted Feb. 7th, 1877,)	82

Whole number during the year, 6
Present number, 5

EXPENSE OF POOR OUT OF HOUSE.

Paid for supplies for Mary A. Blanchard and family,	$15 00	
fuel " " "	45 87	
medical attendance,	3 75	
		$64 62
supplies for Mrs. A. H. Lloyd and family	5 00	
rent " " "	35 00	
fuel " " "	14 00	
		54 00
supplies for Benjamin Weston and family	22 50	
fuel " " "	25 81	
certificates of insanity,	6 00	
removal to Hospital,	12 00	
board and charges at Worcester Lunatic Hospital,	148 06	
		214 37
supplies for Oliver S. Adams and family,	3 00	
fuel " " "	7 25	
		10 25
board of Alma J. Day at Ipswich Insane Hospital,		70 14
rent for Widow Calvin Nichols and family,	33 00	
fuel " " "	17 88	
		50 88
supplies for Nathan Barnes,		88 00
medical attendance and funeral expenses for Charles A. Freeman,		22 50
AMOUNT CARRIED FORWARD,		$574 76

Amount Brought Forward,		$574 76
Paid for board of Daniel Sullivan, jr., at State Reform School,		16 70
removal to N. H. of Thomas LaChance,		7 25
supplies for Widow Abby E. Oliver and family,		138 00
fuel for Widow John Judkins,		7 25
fuel for William Pierce,		35 00
rent for Freeman family,		12 00
supplies for Levi B. Blanchard,		5 00
supplies for Orville N. Wilder,		23 00
board of Joseph Bryant and wife,	156 00	
fuel for " " " "	18 75	
		174 75
transportation of State pauper to Tewksbury,		45
supplies for Sarah L. Penney and family,	$108 56	
medical attendance and nursing,	48 00	
		$156 56
supplies for H. Walter Brown and family,	84 88	
fuel " " "	4 50	
medical attendance,	81 25	
		170 63
supplies for Edmund Grover to City of Boston,		48 00
supplies for Hannah Welch to City of Boston,		2 00
supplies for Joel A. Freeman to City of Boston,		6 10
fuel for Widow Aaron McIntire,	34 69	
medical attendance,	1 25	
rent,	48 00	
		83 94
board and charges for Abigail P. Beers at Lunatic Hospital,		187 52
medical attendance and nursing for T. V. W. Johansen,	26 75	
funeral expenses,	17 00	
		43 75
Amounts Carried Forward,		$1702 66

Amount Brought Forward,			$1692 66
Paid for supplies for Widow Bridget Donegan and family,	161 20		
fuel for Widow Bridget Donegan and family,	35 25		
rent for Widow Bridget Donegan and family,	12 00		
medical attendance for Widow Bridget Donegan and family,	7 50		
		215 95	
fuel for Langdon S. Blanchard,		21 76	
supplies for John H. Daland,	14 50		
fuel, " "	3 81		
		18 31	
supplies for Samuel White and family,		3 00	
supplies for Harry Hunton,		30 00	
supplies for family Clarkson W. Temple,		39 00	
medical attendance for William B. Reed,		14 25	
			$2034 93
Received from Town of Wakefield for supplies for Widow Abbie E. Oliver,	$138 00		
Town of Wakefield for supplies for H. Walter Brown,	170 63		
City of Boston for supplies for Mrs. Alfred H. Lloyd,	30 75		
Due from City of Boston for supplies for Mrs. Alfred H. Lloyd,	23 25		
City of Springfield for supplies for Orville N. Wilder,	23 00		
the State for burial of T. V. W. Johansen state pauper,	10 00		
Town of Malden for supplies for Sarah L. Penney,	156 56		
		552 19	
Net expense of poor out of house,		1482 74	
Net expense of poor in the house,		151 51	
Whole expense of poor out and in the house,			$1634 25
Paid for food and lodging 1546 tramps, 40 c. each,			618 40

STATE AID.

Paid	Lucy J. Allen,	$48 00
	Angie Allen,	24 00
	Mary A. Blanchard,	48 00
	Dorcas Berry,	48 00
	Seth Bessey,	85 25
	Geo. W. Carleton,	18 00
	W. Wallace Davis,	72 00
	Lydia C. Eaton,	48 00
	Caroline Goodwin,	48 00
	Sarah Hetler,	48 00
	L. W. Krook,	36 00
	Charles B. Leathe,	168 00
	Rebecca Lloyd,	48 00
	Benjamin McAlister,	72 00
	William Mears,	72 00
	Edwin Manning,	54 00
	Sarah Nichols,	48 00
	Catherine O'Keefe,	48 00
	Margaret Pinkham,	48 00
	Christian E. Rahr,	45 00
	William B. Reed,	33 60
	Harriet C. Robinson,	48 00
	Eliza Stevens,	48 00
	Harriet Young,	48 00
		$1303 85

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid	Carroll D. Wright, for services as School Committee for 1875–6,	$65 00
	Carroll D. Wright, for services as School Committee in full to Sept. 8, 1876,	25 00
	J. C. Cook, for services as School Committee for 1875–6,	55 00
	Walter S. Parker, for services as School Committee for 1875–6,	50 00
	Hiram Barrus, for services as School Committee to April 30, 1876,	17 50
	Amount Carried Forward,	$212 50

Amount Brought Forward,	$212 50
Paid W. Wallace Davis, for services as School Committee to April 2, 1877, -	60 00
Solon Bancroft, for services as School Committee to April 2, 1877, - -	40 00
George T. Dole, for services as School Committee to April 1, 1877, - -	25 00
Horace G. Wadlin, for services as School Committee to March 1, 1877, -	60 00
William J. Wightman, services as Town Clerk, - - - -	25 00
William J. Wightman, issuing certificate to Representative, - - -	2 00
William J. Wightman, recording births, deaths and marriages, - -	45 75
William J. Wightman, for making other official records, - - -	13 00
Joseph L. Pratt, for services as Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor,	198 75
J. B. Leathe, for services as Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor,	275 00
James Reid, for services as Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor,	275 00
James A. Bancroft, for services as Treasurer and Collector, - - -	175 00
W. Wallace Davis, for services as Collector to March 1, 1877, - - -	140 00
James A. Bancroft, for services as Road Commissioner to March 1, 1877,	50 00
Charles A. Weston, for services as Road Commissioner to March 1, 1877,	50 00
Henry S. LaClair, for services as Road Commissioner to March 1, 1877, -	50 00
Hubbard E. Cox, for services as Constable and Police Officer, - - -	13 50
William L. Crowe, for services as Constable and Police Officer to March 1, 1877,	24 00
John A. Blunt, for services as Police Officer,	13 75
Amount Carried Forward,	$1748 25

Amount Brought Forward,		$1748 25
Paid Francis Bartley, for services as Auditor in 1875–6,	3 00	
Frederick Bancroft, for services as Auditor in 1875–6,	3 00	
		$1754 25

TOWN OFFICE.

Paid William Proctor, for rent of office to Jan. 1, 1877,	$150 00	
for wood and coal,	11 00	
stationary,	8 73	
postage stamps,	4 05	
railroad tickets,	4 80	
express charges,	2 40	
		$180 98

PRINTING.

Paid for Printing Town Reports for 1876,	$152 00	
" " Warrants,	7 75	
" bill heads, checks, notices, etc,	27 25	
" tax bills,	9 00	
		$196 00

LAND DAMAGE.

Paid Clarissa Hartwell, for land taken to round corner of John and Union Streets,	$20 00

SCHOOLS.

Appropriation,	$8500 00
Amount of orders drawn,	8361 30
Amount undrawn,	$138 70

INCIDENTAL SCHOOL EXPENSES.

Appropriation,	$1000 00
Amount of orders drawn,	936 91
Amount undrawn,	$63 09

HIGHWAYS.

Appropriation,	$3000 00	
Amount of orders drawn,	3000 00	

BUILDING SUMMER STREET.

Balance of appropriation,		$161 81
Amount of orders drawn,		135 13
Amount undrawn,		$26 68

EXTENSION OF ELLIOTT STREET.

Appropriation,	$150 00	
Amount of orders drawn,	150 00	

CLEARING SNOW.

In 1875–6,	$63 98	
In 1877,	26 00	
		$89 98

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Appropriation,		$1700 00
Amount of orders drawn,		1675 03
Amount undrawn,		$24 97

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Paid treasurer of trustees, appropriation,	$300 00	
" " " of dog tax,	242 25	
		$542 25

CEMETERY.

Paid treasurer of trustees, appropriation,	$300 00

STREET LIGHTS.

Paid Citizens Gas Light Co., for gas,	$175 26	
for naptha for street lights,	30 46	
alcohol for lighting,	2 65	
lighting,	123 00	
erecting street light at corner of Woburn and Linden streets,	25 04	
repairs of street lanterns,	11 35	
express charges,	4 90	
		$ 72 66

DECORATION OF SOLDIERS' GRAVES.

Paid J. C. Cook, Chairman of Veteran Association amount appropriation, - -	$100 00

CISTERNS.

Paid David Crowell, for labor on cisterns, - -	$3 00

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

For 1873, - - - - -	$11 24	
1874, - - - - -	239 38	
1875, - - - - -	99 09	
1876, - - - - -	26 45	
		$376 16

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

Paid E. L. Hill, for printing, - - -	$16 50	
Hollis and Gunn, " - - -	22 50	
So. Abington Band, services and fares,	214 30	
H. E. Cox, for boarding band, - -	55 00	
J. C. Cook, expenses procuring band, -	4 30	
" " " fares of band between Boston and Reading, - - - -	9 60	
F. J. Bancroft, for music, - -	13 20	
Daniel Creesy, firing three national salutes,	46 00	
Stevens & Lang, for tar for bonfires, -	12 00	
Hyde & Co., for fireworks, - -	50 00	
O. A. Ruggles, $10 ; William Ward and D. A. Emery, $5, prizes awarded, -	15 00	
for three pieces music for dancing, -	9 00	
use flying boats, - - -	12 00	
prizes, - - - -	5 50	
sacks, &c., - - - -	3 40	
R. S. Bowen & Co., for use of tent, and putting up same, - - -	27 70	
N. W. Broad, labor & material for band stand,	8 37	
" " fireworks,	2 18	
Bancroft & Temple, labor and materials for stands, tables and seats, - -	36 00	
AMOUNT CARRIED FORWARD,	$ 562 55	

AMOUNT BROUGHT FORWARD,	$562 55	
Paid William L. Crowe, for supplies for dinner,	26 54	
C. H. Moulton, for use of six horse team,	16 00	
Solon A. Parker, for labor in grove, -	5 00	
J. A. Smith, services as special police, -	5 50	
Joseph Hibbert, " " " -	5 00	
C. C. Cummings, " " " -	5 00	
J. H. Griggs, for ringing bell, - -	3 00	
Harland P. Pratt, " " - -	3 00	
Hyde & Co., for flags, - - -	7 00	
William L. Crowe and others, watching in grove,	5 00	
M. E. Nichols, watching fire, - -	1 00	
Lyceum Hall Association, for use of hall,	5 00	
James Reid & Co., ribbon for badges,	1 35	
C. H. Robinson, posting and distributing bills,	2 50	
Pollard & Leighton, for batons and rosettes,	5 67	
		$659 11
Less Celebration Fund,		65 60
		$593 51

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Paid Lyceum Hall Association for use of Hall for Town Meetings, - - -	$50 00	
G. C. Gleason for returning deaths to town clerk, . - - -	8 00	
H. E. Cox for enforcing dog law, -	11 00	
J. C. Cook painting band stand and flag staff, - - - -	15 50	
Parker and Stone refreshments at fire at W. R. Perkins, - - - -	13 46	
Parker and Stone refreshments at fire at S. D. Niles, - - - -	22 09	
Jacob Jones for pump for watering trough Main street, - - - -	13 00	
J. L. Pratt for watering trough, Charles street,	1 00	
J. H. Griggs for witness fees in Whittredge case, - - - -	2 90	
George W. Dean for ringing bell, -	3 50	
AMOUNTS CARRIED FORWARD,	$140 45	

Amount Brought Forward,	$140	45
Paid Nathan Bancroft care and repair of town flag,	6	75
M. H. Garfield, painting and lettering street signs,	10	00
Dudley Melendy burying dead horses,	14	00
Benjamin Peabody repairing pump on common	3	50
George Beasley, setting tree on common,	2	00
		$176 70

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

RECEIPTS.

Appropriation for schools	$8500	00
incidental school expenses,	1000	00
repair of highways and extra highway work,	3000	00
fire department.	1700	00
public library,	300	00
improvement of cemetery,	300	00
interest on town debt,	4300	00
payment of town debt, $1 on each $1000 of valuation,	2375	00
ordinary expenses,	4000	00
decoration of soldiers' graves,	100	00
building culvert across Main and Ash streets,	400	00
building extension of Elliott street,	150	00
repair of hearse,	75	00
Overlaying of taxes,	1342	66
State tax,	2340	00
County. tax,	816	61
State aid,	1106	00
Corporation tax,	434	42
Bank tax,	566	95
Massachusetts school fund,	232	46
Dog licences,	242	25
Auctioneer license,	2	00
Liquor licenses,	100	00
Amount Carried Forward,	$33,383	35

AMOUNT BROUGHT FORWARD.	$33,383 35	
Interest on taxes, - - - -	619 93	
" " deposits, - - - -	50 00	
Celebration fund, - - - -	65 60	
Betterments, - - - -	40 00	
For street lamp and fixtures, - -	15 00	
For abating nuisance at Way place (so called),	10 00	
Cash drawn for fireman in past years, not called for, - - - - -	10 35	
from town of Wakefield, for supplies for Mrs. Oliver, - - -	266 14	
from town of Wakefield, for supplies for H. Walter Brown, - - -	259 02	
from City of Boston for supplies to Mrs. Lloyd, - - - -	30 75	
from City of Springfield, for supplies to O. N. Wilder, - - - -	15 00	
Due from city of Springfield, for supplies for O. N. Wilder, - - - -	23 00	
from city of Boston, for supplies for Mrs. Lloyd, - - - -	23 25	
from town of Malden, for supplies for Sarah L. Penney, - - - -	213 71	
from State for burial of T. V. W. Johansen,	10 00	
		$35,035 10

EXPENDITURES.

Paid for schools, - - - -	$8361 30	
school incidentals, - - -	936 91	
supplies at almshouse, - -	225 27	
poor out of almshouse, - -	2034 93	
supplies for 1546 tramps, 40 c. each.	618 40	
town officers, - - -	1754 25	
town office, - - -	180 98	
printing, - - - -	196 00	
public library, - - -	542 25	
cemetery, - - - -	300 00	
land damages, - - -	20 00	
street lights, - - -	372 66	
AMOUNT CARRIED FORWARD,	$15,542 95	

Amount Brought Forward,	$15,542 95	
Paid for repair of highways,	3000 00	
building Summer Street,	135 13	
building extension of Elliott Street,	150 00	
clearing snow,	89 98	
fire department,	1675 03	
labor on cisterns,	3 00	
abatement of taxes,	376 16	
miscellaneous expenses,	176 70	
decoration of soldiers' graves,	100 00	
state aid,	1303 85	
state tax,	2340 00	
county tax,	816 61	
interest on town debt,	4337 04	
centennial celebration,	659 11	
State on liquor licenses,	25 00	
		$30,730 56

Total receipts,	$35,035 10
Total expenditures,	30,730 56
Receipts more than expenses,	$4304 54

VALUATION FOR 1876.

Real estate,	$2,109,154
Personal estate,	267,508
Total valuation,	$2,376,662
Amount of taxes assessed,	$30,699 27

Rate of taxation, $12 20 on $1000
Poll tax, $2 00

Numbers of inhabitants according to census of 1875, 3186

JOSEPH L. PRATT,
J. B. LEATHE,
JAMES REID,
} Selectmen, Assessors, Overseers of Poor and Board of Health.

W. WALLACE DAVIS, Collector,

IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TOWN OF READING.

DR.

To Tax list for collection,	$30,699 27	
Interest collected,	96 27	
		$30,795 54

CR.

By Cash paid J. A. Bancroft, Treasurer,		
Interest collected,	$96 27	
Taxes collected,	22,703 63	
Total,		$22,799 90
Uncollected taxes, 1876,		7,995 64
		$30,795 54

W. WALLACE DAVIS, COLLECTOR.

READING, March 15, 1877.

Dr. **JAMES A. BANCROFT, Treasurer, in account with the Town of Reading.** *Cr.*

To Balance in Treasury, March 1, 1876,	$12,296 47	By paying Selectmen's orders,	$23,211 91
Cash of Town of Wakefield, for support of Mrs. A. E. Oliver,	266 14	Town debt,	21,194 00
Cash of Town of Wakefield, for support of H. W. Brown,	259 02	Interest on debt,	4,337 04
City of Springfield, for support of O. N. Wilder,	15 00	State tax,	2,340 00
City of Boston, for support of Luella Lloyd,	30 75	County tax,	816 61
Corporation Tax,	434 42	State Treasurer, liquor license,	25 00
National Bank Tax,	566 95		$51,924 56
Interest on Taxes,	523 66	Balance in Treasury of uncollected taxes, 1873, $17 53	
" " Deposits,	50 00	" " " 1874, 196 53	
State Aid,	1106 00	" " " 1875, 2008 70	
Auctioneer's License,	2 00	Cash, 3837 75	
Liquor Licenses,	100 00		$6,060 51
Betterments,	40 00		$57,985 07
Celebration Fund,	65 60		
School Fund,	232 46		
Dog Licenses.	242 25		
Cash for Street Lamps,	15 00		
Cash for Abating Nuisance,	10 00		
Cash drawn for Firemen in past years not called for,	10 35		
Hired Money,	18,919 00		
Cash of W. Wallace Davis, Collector,	22,800 00		
	$57,985 07		

READING, March 15, 1877.

JAMES A. BANCROFT, TREASURER,

Auditor's Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1877.

LIABILITIES.

Town notes March 1, 1876, - - -	$66,175 00	
" " 1877, - - -	63,900 00	$63,900 00
Decrease during the year, - - -	$2,275 00	
Interest accrued on Town notes, - -	849 26	
Due Fire Department, - - -	940 00	
Miscellaneous debts, - - -	300 00	
		2,089 26
Total debt, - - - -		65,989 26

AVAILABLE ASSETS.

Unpaid taxes, - - - -	$10,218 30	
Due from the State (Aid account), - -	1,303 85	
Cash in treasury, - - - -	3,837 75	
		15,359 90
Net debt March 1, 1877, - - -		50,629 36
" March 1, 1876, - - -		55,069 08
Decrease for the year, - - -		4,439 72

SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY.

Town farm, - - - -	$4000 00	
Personal property at the town farm, -	2516 25	
		$6516 35
Cemetery land and lots, - - -	$2500 00	
Hearse, - - - - -	125 00	
Hearse house, - - - -	75 00	
		$2700 00
AMOUNT CARRIED FORWARD,		$9216 35

Amount Brought Forward,		$9216 35
Eagle engine and hose carriage, - -	$700 00	
Eagle engine house, - - - -	500 00	
Hancock engine and hose carriage, -	500 00	
Hancock engine house, - - -	1800 00	
Washington engine, - - - -	200 00	
Washington engine house, - - -	40 00	
Union engine, - - - -	50 00	
Hook and ladder carriage, &c., - -	400 00	
Hook and ladder house, - - -	80 00	
Furniture and hose, - - - -	1750 00	
		$6020 00
Property in town office, - - -		$400 00
School houses and furniture, - -	35,000 00	
Public Library and furniture, - -	2,200 00	
Piano and apparatus in High School, -	600 00	
		37,800 00
		$53,436 35

We have examined the books of the Selectmen and Treasurer for the year ending March 1, 1877, and find the same correct and satisfactorily vouched. Your Treasurer has reduced the rate of interest on a large part of your debt from one-half to one per cent., and now average five and eighty-three hundreds per cent.

FREDERICK BANCROFT,
FRANCIS BARTLEY,
WILLIAM PROCTOR,
} Auditors.

Reading, March 16th, 1877.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF ENGINEERS

OF THE

Reading Fire Department.

To the Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of Reading:—

There has been no change in the organization of the Fire Department since our last report. The apparatus is all in good condition and ready for instant use. The force of the Department is one hundred and twenty-one men, including the Board of Engineers. The number of fires during the year to which the Department have been called out are as follows: April 24, 1.15 A.M., house of S. D. Niles, on Woburn Street, damage $4300, fully insured; June 26, 11 P.M., cabinet shop of George W. Grouard, on Salem Street, damage $1200, insurance $600; July 23, 5.30 A.M., stable of W. R. Perkins, on Main Street, struck by lightning, damage $1600, fully insured (the stable in which this fire originated was totally destroyed and the fire communicated to an L which connected the stable with the house of Mr. Perkins, but by the strenuous exertions of the Department the house was saved, and the L left standing in a damaged condition); August 16, 11.30 P.M., house of Mrs. Pike, corner of John and Parker Streets, damage $250, fully insured. In addition to the above the stable of S. E. Parker, on Summer Street, and the house of Mr. Burgess, on the hill north of the cemetery, were struck by lightning, but the damage in each instance was slight and no alarm of fire was necessary. Our Department has proved itself equal to all emergencies during the year, and we submit this report to our fellow citizens with renewed confidence in its efficiency. A portion of the Fire Department of Wakefield responded to alarms in this town in two instances during the year and are entitled to our thanks. The usual fall parade was omitted in consequence of the continued depression in business and a feeling of inability on the part of the members to contribute for the extra expense, but we recommend that the sum of one hundred dollars be appropriated for that purpose as usual. The expenses of the Department for the past year have been as follows:

Paid members of Department for services for year ending May 1st., 1876, - -	$1235 35
Charles H. Lang for services as Chief Engineer to May 1st., 1876, - -	25 00
Charles H. Danforth for services as Assistant Engineer to May 1st., 1876, - -	17 00
Joseph W. Spokesfield for services as Assistant Engineer to May 1st., 1876, -	12 00
David Crowell for services as Assistant Engineer to May 1st., 1876, - -	12 00
C. C. Cummings for services as steward of Eagle Engine Co. to May 1st., 1876,	30 00
C. C. Cummings for services as steward of Eagle Engine Co. to Nov. 1st., 1876,	30 00
Wm. H. Bancroft for services as steward of Hancock Engine Co. to May 1st., 1876,	48 00
Wm. H. Bancroft for services as steward of Hancock Engine Co. to Aug. 1st., 1876,	12 00
H. A. Morrill for services as steward of H. & L. Co. to May 1st., 1876, -	5 00
L. B. Loring for services as fireman from May 1st. to Dec. 1st., 1876, - -	5 83
A. C. Nichols for services as fireman from May 1st. to Dec. 1st., 1876, - -	5 83
C. H. Robinson for services as fireman from May 1st. to Dec. 1st., 1876, - -	5 83
Joseph Marshall for services as fireman from May 1st. to Dec. 30th., 1876, -	6 66
E. L. Hill for services as fireman from May 1st. to Dec. 30th., 1876, - -	6 66
C. C. Cummings for watching fire at S. A. Parker's mill, - - -	2 00
Belt & Leather Stuffing Co. for castor oil hose dressing, - - - -	34 50
Summers & Hunt for 2 double-leather pipes,	32 00
T. Littlefield, dippers for Department,	5 76
F. J. Bancroft for drawing engine to fire,	1 00
Daniel Creesy, labor and materials on Hancock house, - - - -	2 20
AMOUNTS CARRIED FORWARD,	$1534 62

Amount Brought Forward,	$1534 62	
Paid Daniel Creesy, repairs on Washington engine,	4 00	
" " Eagle and H. & L. houses and flag staff,	15 50	
C. C. Cummings, oiling hose,	6 00	
Charles H. Lang, express fees and sundries,	10 20	
P. McCall, spanner cases, etc.,	12 00	
Hayward & Allen, oil, brushes, etc.,	5 42	
N. D. Stoodley, leather,	1 75	
Parker & Stone, sundries,	1 60	
John A. Blunt, sundries,	9 69	
Hunneman & Co., repair of engine and hose,	74 25	
		$1675 03
Amount unexpended,		24 97
Amount appropriated,		$1700 00

In conclusion, we recommend that the town appropriate for the expenses of the Department for the ensuing year the sum of $1700, one hundred dollars of which may be expended for a public parade of the Department.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

CHARLES H. LANG, Chief Engineer,

E. C. NICHOLS,
D. CROWELL,
D. CREESY,
C. H. DANFORTH, } Assistants.

CHARLES H. DANFORTH, Clerk.

Reading, March, 1877.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Trustees of the Public Library.

The Trustees of the Public Library report receipts as follows:

Town appropriation, 1876,	$300 00	
Dog licenses,	242 25	
Fines collected,	62 92	
Sales of Catalogues, &c.,	9 45	
		$614 62

PAYMENTS.

To Miss Alice B. Temple, Librarian,	$125 50	
Miss Lizzie Cox, Librarian,	52 50	
H. G. Terry, binding books,	103 30	
Estes & Lauriat, for books,	108 82	
A. R. Gay, for blank books, &c.,	29 50	
C. W. Perkins, for rent, fuel, &c.,	150 00	
Insurance,	25 00	
Express, stationery, &c.,	9 45	
Miscellaneous,	4 50	
Cash on hand,	6 05	
		$614 62

The trustees have purchased and added to the library during the year, 85 volumes. Donations of books have been made by various parties not previously reported, as follows:

Lyman B. Foster,	4 volumes.
Brazilian Centennial Commission,	5 "
E. H. Goss,	1 "
F. H. Knight,	6 "
National Bureau of Education,	4 "
General Convention of New Jerusalem,	19 "

H. C. Gray, 1 volume of the Reading Chronicle.

Number of volumes in circulation during the year ending July 1, 1876,	14,196
Decrease since 1875,	2,739

The falling off in circulation is evidently due to the fact that for the years 1875 and 1876, the town appropriations for the library have been so limited as to cover little more than the annual expenses of salary, rent, re-binding, &c., and that conseqnently during those years, the whole amount of money used for the purchase of books for the library has been only about one hundred dollars. The trustees would therefore respectfully suggest that the town raise, for the use of the library for the ensuing year, the sum of five hundred dollars—two hundred dollars more than last year. This additional sum will be sufficient, we think, to revive and maintain the usual interest in this important educational institution.

In order to show the interest that our people have taken in the matter of libraries and to place their efforts in this direction upon our records, we will so far depart from our usual course as to give some portion of this report to historical facts.

The first library in this portion of the old town of Reading, so far as we can learn was established September 27, 1796. It was known as "The Federal Library," and was owned by an association of about sixty members. Rev. Peter Sanborn, who was settled in this town the year previous, was the librarian, and with Deacon Timothy Pratt, John Emerson, John Temple and John Weston, constituted a committee "to take care of the affairs of the society." Rights of membership cost at that time a dollar each, and afterwards two dollars, with the payment of an annual tax of twenty-five cents. Mr. Sanborn served as librarian till about 1814. Three years afterwards the library assumed a more formal organization and chose Abijah Weston, clerk, John Weston, librarian, and David Emerson, treasurer. There were then seventy-five members, and the librarian received for his services the generous sum of five dollars per year. The records are silent after 1830 ; and the books (two hundred and seventy-three in number) were sold at public auction to private individuals January 24, 1831.

Its successor was "The Franklin Library," organized January 1, 1842. John Batchelder, 3d, was chosen president, George Bancroft vice-president, Oliver Peabody, clerk, treasurer, and librarian, Dr

Kendall Davis, Thomas Sweetser, Stephen Foster, N. P. Sherman, H. P. Cook, Charles Newman, Loea Parker, curators. Whole number of members, one hundred and three. Terms of admission were fixed at two dollars per member, with an annual tax of fifty cents. Dr. H. P. Wakefield was the next president, being elected in 1855 ; Milo Parker in 1858, J. H. Bancroft in 1860 and Stephen Foster in 1862. By vote of the members in 1869, this library, numbering four hundred and sixty-two volumes, was transferred to the trustees of the Reading Public Library, where it is now doing service for the benefit of all the inhabitants of the town.

"The Agricultural Library Association" was organized in 1860. Its officers were N. P. Pratt president, Thomas E. Prescott vice-president, J. W. Manning secretary, Thomas Richardson librarian (till his decease in 1864). Miss Emily Ruggles succeeded him and served till the books, one hundred and sixty-six volumes, were transferred to the town library in 1869, where they are still in use.

"The Reading Public Library" was established in 1868. Its first board of trustees were E. Hunt, E. Appleton, C. P. Judd, F. H. Knight, Hiram Barrus, William Proctor. E. Hunt was president till April, 1871, when E. Appleton succeeded to the place, which he still retains. F. O. Dewey was elected in place of Mr. Hunt in 1871, and Stephen Foster in place of C. P. Judd. These are all the changes that have occurred in the board of trustees since the organization of the library. F. H. Knight served as secretary and treasurer till 1874, when, in consequence of his absence from town, H. Barrus was chosen to serve in his place. Miss Mattie H. Appleton served very acceptably as librarian from the opening of the library, on February 17, 1869, to 1873. Miss Alice B. Temple succeeded, and after an efficient service of three years, she also resigned the position. Miss Lizzie Cox received the appointment and has faithfully performed the duties since last August. During the first four years of its existence the library was kept in the High School building. In 1873 it was transferred to its present position in the Perkins Building, corner of Woburn and Lowell Streets. The town appropriations to the support of the library

been as follows: In 1868 $500, in 1869 $600, in 1870 $150, in 1871 $500, in 1872 $500, in 1873 $830, in 1874 $855, in 1875 $350.

DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

In 1867, Dr. Horace P. Wakefield offered to donate to the town the sum of $500 towards establishing a public library, on condition that the town should appropriate an equal amount for the same purpose. Upon the fulfilment of the conditions by act of the town, the donation was received, and by vote of the trustees was devoted "to the purchase of standard works, embracing history, classic literature, books of reference, etc." In 1871 a donation of $100 was received from the bequest of T. Ward Hartshorn. During the first year of the existence of the public library 199 volumes were received from school districts Nos. 5, 8 and 9. E. Appleton, Esq., and family presented 189 volumes, Hon. Charles Sumner 13, F. H. Knight 18. In 1871 Loton Parker gave 228 volumes, J. B. Lewis, Jr., 100; E. Appleton and family, in 1871–2, 102, Rev. Dr. Barrows 19, Hon. N. P. Banks 33, State of Massachusetts 10. In 1873, F. O. Dewey, Esq., presented a "Littell's Living Age," numbering 115 volumes. In 1875 the State gave 18 volumes, Hon. E. R. Hoar 24 volumes, Mrs. Henry A. Perkins 26 volumes. In 1876, Hon. C. L. Flint gave 87 volumes and 10 pamphlets.

The number of volumes in the library when opened was 823; in 1870, 1577; in 1871, 2475; in 1872, 2693; in 1873, 2924; in 1874, 3237; in 1875, 3442; in 1876, 3705.

The circulation in 1870 was 12,215; in 1871, 14,386; in 1872, 13,210; in 1873, 14,571; in 1874, 16,834; in 1875, 16,935.

The number of persons having cards is usually about twelve hundred, but these do not represent the number using the library. In many instances the books taken out on one card serves a whole family. The trustees, as far as practicable, place the use of the library within the reach of all the residents of the town. Every person above 14 years of age belonging to the town is entitled to a card. Strangers residing temporarily here may have the use of books on the same conditions as others by depositing with the librarian two dollars

as security for the return of books and payment of damages. Members of the High School, not resident, or if under 14, may take books on written permission of a trustee. A slight fine is imposed for retaining a book beyond the specified time. The amount of fines yearly received, averages about $60, which may be regarded as private contributions to the public benefit.

The library contains a large number of standard works, historical and classical. The works of fiction, however get the largest circulation, usually being a little more than half the number taken out.

The library is open every Wednesday afternoon from two to five o'clock; every Saturday afternoon from two to five and from six to nine o'clock.

The vacancies to be filled at the approaching annual meeting, are those occasioned by the expiration of the terms of Messrs. Foster and Knight.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARD APPLETON, Chairman,

STEPHEN FOSTER,
F. O. DEWEY,
F. H. KNIGHT,
WILLIAM PROCTOR,
HIRAM BARRUS,
} Trustees of Public Library.

Report of Cemetery Committee.

Besides the ordinary care of the cemetery, the Committee undertook during the past year to carry the wall upon Main Street to the northern limit of the grounds. It was found, that since the construction of the portion already built, the County Commissioners had located the westerly line of Main Street, so that a portion of the wall was within the street limits. After consulting with them, it was thought best to move the wall north of the upper Main Street entrance so that it should be upon the line. This and the completion of the new wall will not require any unusual appropriation, if the Committee can make use of the unexpended balance of former appropriations. No other portion of the wall will have to be moved.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Appropriation made at last annual town meeting,	$300 00	
Undrawn of appropriation for 1874–5, -	98 40	
" " " 1875–6, -	41 97	
		$440 37
Paid for labor in cemetery, - - -	$250 94	
Timothy Doucett, for work on wall, -	97 00	
for teaming capstones - - -	1 50	
express of same, - - -	1 96	
running line upon street, - -	1 00	
		352 40
Amount drawn from Town appropriations,	296 35	
Received from sale of lots, - - -	57 00	
		353 35
Unexpended balance,		95

F. O. DEWEY,
F. H. KNIGHT,
G. C. GLEASON,
W. S. RICHARDSON,
T. B. PRATT,
S. BANCROFT,
} COMMITTEE.

READING, March, 1877.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ROAD COMMISSIONERS.

Your Road Commissioners think they have, during the past year, improved the highways. Owing to the refusal of the Boston & Maine Railroad corporation to allow the Town the use of their land on the east side of Ash Street for a water course, we did not think it best to use the four hundred dollars appropriated for a culvert across Main and Ash Streets.

We would recommend the sum of twenty-five hundred dollars for repairs, two hundred and fifty for widening the road-bed on Willow Street near the railroad crossing, two hundred for clearing snow to date, and two hundred and fifty for the ensuing year.

The expenses under our control have been as follows, and the money has been paid to the following persons:

ORDINARY REPAIRS.

Henry S. LaClair,	labor of self and team, -		$332 97
Wm. G. Nichols,	" - - -		64 22
J. B. Nichols,	" - - -		57 93
Albert Nichols,	" - - -		69 90
Richard B. Nichols,	" - - -		26 25
Edwin P. Nichols,	" - - -		14 70
Daniel Nichols,	" - - -		7 00
D. Marshall Nichols,	" - - -		1 75
Warren Hayward,	" - - -		66 67
Arthur Emerson,	" - - -		6 13
Benj. F. Pratt,	" - - -		46 72
Wilmot K. Pratt,	" - - -		23 05
Albert Emerson,	" - - -		24 85
Jacob Jones,	" - - -		7 10
Dexter Jones,	" - - -		10 49
Orin Jones,	" - - -		17 32
AMOUNT CARRIED FORWARD,			$777 05

AMOUNT BROUGHT FORWARD,			$777 05
O. G. Batchelder,	labor of self and team,	-	6 13
Charles Hutchinson,	" - - -		5 25
Richard D. Wilkins,	" - - -		33 85
F. O. Carter,	" - - -		8 75
N. O. Bunker;	" - - -		1 75
James H. Bancroft,	" - - -		3 50
Charles Wakefield,	" - - -		11 50
Ephraim Wight,	" - - -		80
William Holmes,	" - - -		9 20
Clarence Barbrick,	" - - -		3 50
E. C. Jones,	" - - -		25 19
J. W. Killam,	" - - -		5 25
George Ballard,	" - - -		11 00
C. H. Norwood,	" - - -		1 75
H. P. Pratt,	" - - -		88
B. C. Clark,	" - - -		2 62
Asa Parker,	" and team	-	102 20
George Beasley,	" "	-	146 83
R. H. Harmon,	" "	-	144 35
Daniel Sullivan,	" - - -		115 67
C. H. Swain.	" - - -		109 20
T. Rierdon,	" - - -		86 45
O. A. Swain,	" - - -		66 84
John Mellen,	" - - -		123 59
Emerson Smith,	" - - -		72 97
Patrick Barrett,	" - - -		88 00
William Ramsdell,	" - - -		22 05
Charles A. Weston,	labor of self, man and team,		471 05
James M. Eames,	" - - -		5 87
James Sullivan,	" - - -		23 02
James Dewhurst,	" - - -		60
James Wilson,	" - - -		5 25
H. G. Gerritson,	" - - -		1 75
Levi Towne,	" - - -		6 00
R. M. Boyce,	" - - -		16 25
Nathan Crafts,	" - - -		3 00
B. F. Adams,	" - - -		16 50
E. M. Remick,	" - - -		1 61
AMOUNT CARRIED FORWARD,			$2540 02

AMOUNT BROUGHT FORWARD,		$2540 02	
C. H. Moulton, labor,		19 87	
R. C. Totten, "		11 37	
L. Turner, "		15 00	
William Frost, "		27 48	
William Jones, "		3 91	
D. P. Babb, "		18 25	
Michael Forbes, "		23 44	
Michael Kelley, "		34 13	
M. D. Parker, "		10 00	
T. H. Gould, "		10 36	
J. A. Blunt, "		3 68	
Cummings Express,		3 10	
			$2720 61

RAILING STREETS.

Henry S. LaClair, labor,		15 06	
" " " materials,		1 68	
Wilmot K. Pratt, labor,		5 77	
N. W. C. Carter, rails,		6 59	
Emory Bancroft, rails,		2 55	
Charles A. Weston, labor,		1 70	
			$33 35
J, B. Nichols, covering stone,		10 60	
J. G. Hutchinson, "		1 25	
R. D. Wilkins, "		76 25	
Hannah Wilkins, "		34 40	
A. Fultz, "		1 00	
F. B. Smith, "		1 00	
C. H. Moulton, "		90	
Nathan Merrill, "		15 05	
Waldo Bros., drain pipe,		10 13	
Boston & Lowell Railroad Company, freight,		6 05	
Whittemore Bros., plow points,		2 20	
Samuel Brown, maul,		2 00	
			160 83
William Porter, gravel,		33 28	
B. F. Newell's Heirs, gravel,		4 06	
J. M. Houseman, "		60	
AMOUNTS CARRIED FORWARD,		$37 94	2914 79

Amounts Brought Forward,	$37 94	2914 79	
Wm. H. Nash, gravel, " - - -	1 10		
Etson Damon, " - - -	22 37		
Charles Wakefield, " - - -	3 30		
Asa Parker, " - - -	6 35		
G. A. Parker, " - - -	1 80		
Francis Kingman, " - - -	11 30		
Clarissa Hartwell, " - - -	4 20		
G. R. Turner, " - - -	2 85		
		91 21	
		3006 00	
Credit by cash received of G. C. Gleason, for loam,	5 00		
" " R. M. Boyce, for stone,	1 00		
		6 00	
Appropriation,		$3000 00	

REMOVING SNOW.

Robert H. Harmon, labor 1875–6, - -	1 02		
Timothy Rierdon, " - -	87		
Charles H. Moulton, " - -	11 30		
Michael Forbes, " - -	2 10		
Charles A. Weston, " - -	19 00		
Henry S. LaClair, " - -	5 20		
Wm. G. Nichols, " - -	2 10		
Richard B. Nichols, " - -	3 45		
Edwin P. Nichols, " - -	89		
Charles Wakefield, " - -	75		
Randall Ricker, " - -	7 80		
Albert Janes, " - -	87		
E. Eames, " - -	2 80		
J. Mellen, " - -	2 46		
J. M. Eames, " - -	2 50		
C. H. Swain, " - -	87		
		63 98	
Geo. Beasley, labor in 1876–7, - -		26 00	

BUILDING EXTENSION OF ELLIOT STREET.

Henry S. LaClair, labor, - - -	24 50		
Albert Nichols, " - - -	13 00		
Amount Carried Forward,	$37 50		

Amount Brought Forward,	$37 50	
R. D. Wilkins, covering stone,	30 40	
George Beasley, labor,	15 40	
T. Rierdon, "	11 37	
Charles A. Weston, labor,	11 40	
Geo. Ballard, "	10 00	
D. P. Babb, "	7 00	
Michael Forbes, "	8 00	
Etson Damon, gravel,	18 93	
Appropriation,		$150 00

BUILDING SUMMER STREET.

Balance of appropriation,		161 81
C. H. Moulton, balance of contract,	100 00	
Waldo Bros., drain pipe,	10 13	
C. H. Moulton, extra work,	16 00	
C. A. Weston, setting bound stone,	9 00	135 13
Unexpended,		26 68

JAMES A. BANCROFT,
CHARLES A. WESTON,
HENRY S. LaCLAIR,
} Road Commissioners.

Reading, March 1, 1877.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF READING,

FOR THE YEAR 1876—77.

REPORT.

The School Committee for the year closing March, 1877, hereby submit their annual report:

GENERAL CONDITION OF SCHOOLS.

We are glad to be able to report that the schools, in general, have not fallen below their usual standard.

While in some particular branches they have not reached the requisite mark, progress has been made, and, taken as a whole, they are in a satisfactory condition and under the control of efficient teachers.

COURSE OF INSTRUCTION.

As stated in our last report, the Committee have prepared a course of instruction for the graded schools, believing that such a course will systematize the efforts of the teachers by pointing out the amount of work to be accomplished in each year; and that it will also promote the efficiency of the schools, by securing uniformity and method throughout the entire system.

While it remains impossible to apply this course in its entirety in the mixed schools, yet it will serve as a guide even there, and enable the teachers of such schools to arrange their plans so as to coincide with those of perfect grade. This is the more important as the Committee have determined that pupils shall hereafter fit for admission to the High School, in these schools; and it is therefore essential that the line of instruction pursued, shall be similar to that followed in the centre of the town.

Among the advantages obtained by the adoption of this course, is the more even grading secured by it, in those schools which have been denominated *graded* heretofore. By the arrangement contemplated, and the system of promotions adopted, each school is virtually composed of one class,—all members of which are pursuing the same

year's work. But the chief advantage derived, is the more exact co-ordination of the various schools. The requirements of the upper primary year are carried up to, and coincide with, those of the lower medium year. The upper medium with the lower grammar; and so on, throughout the system. By requiring, as far as may be possible, every pupil to complete the requirements of his grade before passing to a higher, the utmost uniformity or co-ordination may be secured.

PROMOTIONS.

Before proceeding to this subject, it may be well to state briefly the three methods of promotion possible. They are:

1. Promotion by classes without examination. This carries each class in its entirety,—those pupils perfectly prepared for the change, and those more or less unprepared.

2. Individual promotions of the more advanced members of each class at any time that there may be room in the grade above. This disturbs the uniformity of classes, and continually takes away from every class its better elements, leaving the poorest members to become a perpetual drag upon the school.

3. A medium between the two previous plans by which the unity of classes is preserved, while the pupils are subjected to a series of examinations, and required to reach an average standard before passing to the advanced grade.

These systems all have their special advocates. Your Committee have adopted the latter, it being in their judgment the best, both for the general welfare of the schools and the interests of individual pupils. By the first system referred to, pupils are constantly being promoted before they are properly qualified. Unable to understand the studies of the grade to which they are advanced, they are borne on by the momentum of the class, and so carried from school to school, until, at the completion of their course, they are thrown out, without having derived any lasting benefit. By the second system, the more ambitious and brighter pupils are over-stimulated; the idle, and those of slower intellect, are discouraged and left behind in the lower

classes, until they finally drop out by the way. By the last, the standard for promotion is placed so low as to be reached by those of average powers, while each pupil has an incentive for vigorous exertion placed before him by the examinations which he is expected to pass.

EXAMINATIONS.

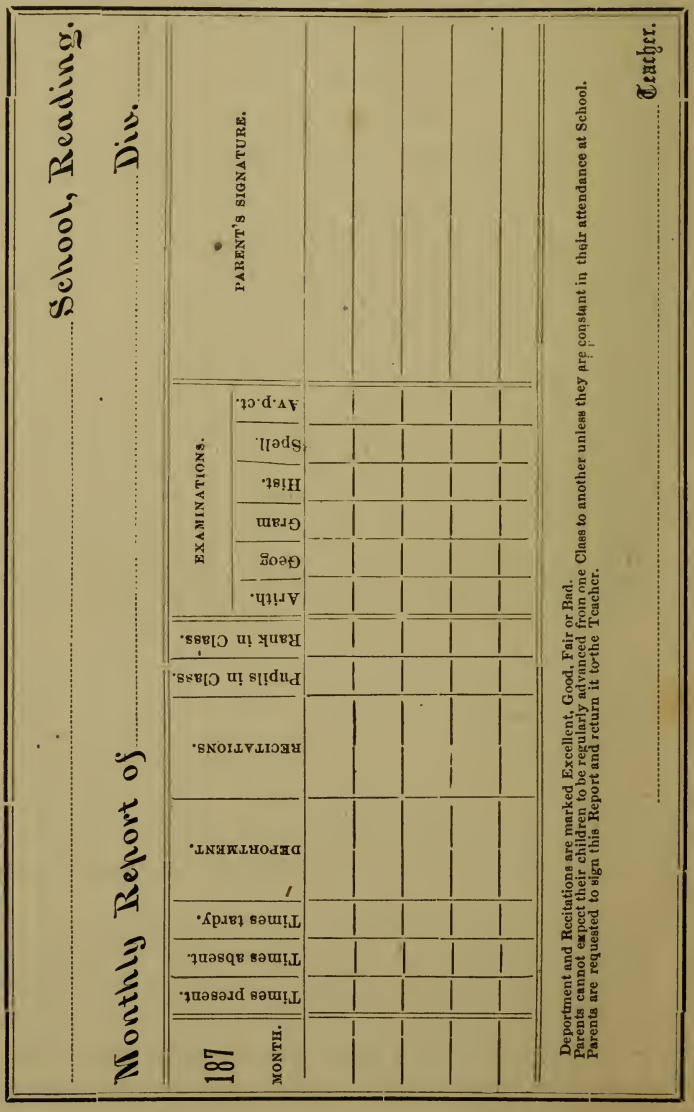
It is of course impossible, or nearly so, for a Committee, by any examination given at the completion of a year's work, to ascertain the standing of a pupil, or to judge accurately of his fitness for promotion. Pupils, when subjected to a test examination given by those with whom they are unfamiliar, and in whose presence they are often embarrassed, do not show their real capabilities or attainments. Monthly review examinations are therefore to be given by the teachers throughout each year. The average capacity of pupils and their standing in the class can be very nearly ascertained from the results of these examinations. As an additional test, however, a written examination is to be given at the end of the year, from questions prepared by the Committee; and by comparing the results with those before reached, the pupil's promotion or non-promotion is to be decided.

Incidental advantages of no small importance are also reached by means of this system of examinations. The Committee are each month furnished with a transcript of their results, and are thus provided with an index of the work accomplished in the schools; are able to judge of the progress that has been made, and, by comparing one month with another, to see that the general standard is maintained.

The teachers are provided with a sure means for testing the results of each month's instruction, can observe whether principles have been comprehended, and can discover the points in which certain pupils may be weak. The pupils have the advantage of frequent and systematic reviews, and are regularly apprised of their class standing, and so given an opportunity to recover lost ground.

That parents, also, may have regular information of the standing of their children, of their conduct and attendance, the Committee have

introduced into the upper graded schools report cards, of which the following is a copy : —



Monthly Report of ..... School, Reading.

..... Div.

MONTH. 187	Times present.	Times absent.	Times tardy.	DEPORTMENT.	RECITATIONS.	Pupils in Class.	Rank in Class.	EXAMINATIONS. Arith.	Geog.	Gram.	Hist.	Spell.	Av. p. ct.	PARENT'S SIGNATURE.

Department and Recitations are marked Excellent, Good, Fair or Bad.
Parents cannot expect their children to be regularly advanced from one Class to another unless they are constant in their attendance at School.
Parents are requested to sign this Report and return it to the Teacher.

..... Teacher.

Some modification of these, may be introduced hereafter in the other schools of the town.

The Committee are aware that no course of study or system of promotions can be followed in all cases without regard to individual capacity. A certain degree of elasticity must, from the nature of things, be observed. In exceptional cases bright pupils must be allowed to pass in advance of the class; dull ones be kept back. But, as a rule, they feel confident that the plan adopted will promote the efficiency of the schools, will systematize their work, will hold teachers to faithfulness, and, if judiciously followed, will prevent, to a great extent, the too common error of carrying pupils over more ground than can be intelligently comprehended. It is as yet very imperfect. Its results must be watched, and its requirements modified whenever experience shall show such modifications necessary; but, in the year during which it has been tried, its success justifies us in predicting more perfect results in the future, and warrants us in asking in its behalf the earnest co-operation of teachers and parents, and the careful study and impartial trial of future committees.

In the foregoing we have, as briefly as we deemed consistent with clearness, set forth the system introduced into our schools, that the town may fully understand the changes which have been made, and the reasons therefor, especially as these changes are important in themselves, and are expected to produce definite results. We now pass to the consideration of the remaining points, to which we ask your attention.

TEXT BOOKS.

Certain changes in text books have been made during the year, but only where change seems imperatively necessary. These have been effected on such terms as to be, in most cases, an advantage to pupils in a pecuniary point of view, — being restricted to those studies upon which they were entering for the first time, — the new books being furnished at an introduction price below that of the book displaced.*

That pupils might be allowed every advantage possible in purchasing books, the Committee procured a supply of those in most frequent demand; and they have been sold at a price covering cost and expressage only.

In the few instances where books have been substituted for those already in use by pupils, copies have been furnished by the Committee, as required by law.

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* As an instance, pupils beginning to study U. S. History were directed to purchase Barnes' History, furnished them at 90c per copy, in place of Swinton's, the old book, which costs $1: the change resulting in a gain to the pupils of 10 cents.

DISCIPLINE.

As a rule, the discipline maintained throughout the schools has been good. A few cases have occurred, as they always will occur, demanding the attention of the Committee. In some instances pupils have been expelled for misdemeanors. Whenever the requirements of the Committee regarding such cases have been complied with, the pupils have been re-instated.

Teachers should remember that good morals are to be taught in the schools, and should lose no opportunity to impress on their pupils the principles of polite and gentle behavior in the schoolroom and upon the street. Parents should co-operate with them in the enforcement of whatever precepts may be needed to secure good conduct at all times.

Teachers are referred to the following section from the Statutes of Massachusetts :

"It shall be the duty of instructors of youth to exert their best endeavors to impress upon the minds of children and youth committed to their care and instruction the principles of piety and justice, and a sacred regard to truth; love of their country, humanity and universal benevolence; sobriety, industry and frugality; chastity, moderation and temperance; and those other virtues which are the ornament of human society and the basis upon which a republican constitution is founded; and it shall be the duty of such instructors to endeavor to lead their pupils, as their ages and capacities will admit, into a clear understanding of the tendency of the above-mentioned virtues, * * * * * * * and also to point out to them the evil tendencies of the opposite vices."

ATTENDANCE.

Parents are reminded that nothing more seriously interferes with the progress of the pupil than inconstant attendance. Every effort should be made to secure promptness and regularity in this respect. No absence should be allowed unless absolutely unavoidable. The prevalence of diptheria and scarlet fever during the winter term has, in some schools, caused temporary non-attendance of pupils. Otherwise the record has been very good.

MUSIC.

At its last annual meeting the town authorized the Committee to devote the sum of three hundred dollars to instruction in music in the schools during the year. Mr. Henry G. Carey, who had formerly been engaged in the same capacity, was secured as music teacher for the spring term. At its close he resigned his position on account of

intended absence in Europe. Mr. Ulmer H. Manning succeeded him and has been quite successful, awakening the enthusiasm of the pupils by earnest efforts, which have been well seconded by the regular teachers.

A change was made at the beginning of the fall term, in the manner of apportioning the instruction in music. Each school is now visited weekly by the music teacher, and all receive an equal share of his attention.

OTHER STUDIES PURSUED.

Instruction in drawing has come to be recognized as an essential branch of school work. Of its value as a means of training the eye and hand, as an aid in stimulating the power of observation, it is hardly necessary to speak here.

By a law of Massachusetts it is required to be taught in all public schools. Although not yet fairly introduced in our own, it has been assigned a place in the course adopted, and the manner of introduction has been placed in the hands of a sub-committee for future consideration.

In the upper grammar schools some attention has been given to map drawing, in connection with the study of Geography. By this means the outline and size of a country is often indelibly fixed in the pupil's mind.

The other branches of study have received the usual amount of attention. It has been the aim of the Committee to secure thorough and practical instruction in the fundamental branches. To this end comprehensive reviews in Geography and Arithmetic have been added to the High School course. It is thought that these will be productive of good results. The discussion of principles in the latter study will thus be considered at a time when the higher development of the pupil's powers will render them intelligible.

Instruction in penmanship has been given in accordance with the course, at least four days per week, and considerable improvement has been manifested by the pupils. It is hoped, however, to reach a still higher mark in the future. The Committee desire to encourage pupils to zealous efforts in this direction. It is their wish to arrange for a lecture to teachers upon the methods to be pursued in teaching penmanship, and especially upon the principles of the formation of letters, now too much neglected. Teachers would thus have the opportunity to become familiar with the ideas upon which the system

of writing-books now in use is based, and given the benefit of the advice of an expert in regard to the most direct way of securing progress.

Spelling by sound, in accordance with the Phonic method, has been practiced in some of the primary classes. Wherever this plan has been thoroughly tried it has been found a valuable aid in learning to read. It may be well to give it more notice in coming years. Regarding the subject of spelling in the schools at large, the Committee are convinced that our pupils will compare favorably in this study with those of the same age anywhere. In the markings received for spelling in the grammar schools, a fair test, the results have generally exceeded the average standard. Nevertheless too much attention cannot be paid to this branch of study. The irregularities of English orthography are such as to often confound the most proficient student. Teachers in the upper schools usually pursue the plan of written spelling exercises, by which each pupil is made to spell every word in the lesson, and in the way most adapted to try his ability.

Teachers should notice particularly the spelling and penmanship of the written examination papers prepared by the pupils. In filling out such papers the most common words are often misspelled from mere carelessness or hurry on the part of the pupil. Such lapses are sometimes seized upon as indicating the general character of spelling in the school, and made texts for criticism. Carefulness in orthography, with neatness and legibility in penmanship, should be required in the preparation of all written exercises.

HIGH SCHOOL.

This school remains in charge of the same teachers as heretofore. It has maintained its high standard throughout the year. The graduation exercises in June were, as usual, well attended, and the class receiving diplomas was fully equal to any which has preceded it. A list of the graduates is appended to this report. The class entering the school at the beginning of the fall term, numbered thirty four pupils; making the whole number now in attendance eighty-six.

An important change has been made in the manner of holding the sessions of this school. Two sessions are now held daily,—from 9 to 12 o'clock A. M. and from 2 to 4 o'clock P. M.—The senior class alone attending in the afternoon; the remainder of the school in the forenoon. This plan has been adopted in several high schools in the State with good results. It obviates the lateness of the dinner hour,

occurring under the old system; and economizes the time of both teacher and pupils.

CENTRE SCHOOLS.

Miss I. M. Daniels, whose services as teacher of the First Grammar School had been acceptable to the Committee, was obliged to resign her position early in the year on account of illness. Miss Jennie R. Barrus succeeded Miss Daniels.

In the Second Grammar School the vacancy caused by the resignation of Miss Mihan, its former teacher, was filled by the promotion of Miss Sarah L. Stoodley.

During the spring term the Third Grammar School was in charge of Miss Clara L. Bancroft, of Lynn. Miss Annie M. Knight succeeded Miss Bancroft, and has continued throughout the remainder of the year. This school has suffered somewhat on account of improper grading, but this evil will be remedied in the future.

No other changes have been made in the administration of the Centre schools. Under the present teachers, who are efficient and conscientious, they are making satisfactory progress.

OUTER WARD SCHOOLS.

It was found necessary to employ an assistant during a portion of the year at the Walnut Street School. Her compensation has been merely nominal, as may be seen by reference to the financial report.

A vacancy, caused by the resignation of Miss Clark at the Woburn Street Grammar School, was filled by the engagement of Miss E. F. Wheelock of Norwood. During the severe illness of Miss Loring, of the Woburn Street Primary School, her place was well filled by Miss Evelyn Bancroft. Miss Kate Brown having resigned, Mr. L. P. Howard succeeded her as teacher of the Main Street Mixed School, filling the position successfully and to the satisfaction of the Committee. Mr. Howard has also resigned, preparatory to further prosecution of his studies, the Winter term being completed under Mr. Forrester Elliott. The Lowell and Haverhill Street Schools remain under their former teachers. All of the above schools, although laboring under disadvantages which do not exist at the Centre, are provided with faithful instructors and are doing good work.

Our schools are not above criticism, and it is expected that they will receive it; but, often, those who are most severe in their denunciation of methods and results, are those who have the least knowledge of what is doing, or of the difficulties to be overcome in solving

the problem of popular education. The remark is frequently made that the education afforded by the common schools is not 'practical'; but before we can be united upon this question, it will be necessary for the critics to define exactly what is meant by a *practical* education. So many theories exist upon this point that definiteness of statement is absolutely required, before the charge can be refuted. By some advocates of practical instruction the broadest latitude is given to the topics of study admissable in the public schools. Others complete the list with the three Rs,—" Reading, 'Riting and 'Rithmetic." In the Kansas State Agricultural School, mechanical trades are taught, and, in our own state, a wave of opinion seems to favor the establishment, by cities and towns, of similar industrial schools.

All theorists, however, agree that the best system of education is that which best fits the pupil for the duties of life. Some of our boys are to become mechanics, others are to enter upon professional careers. A radically different training is required for each pursuit. But before his plan for life is marked out, the system of education employed should give that developement of the pupil's resources, which underlies success in any sphere of life. This, then, is the province of the common school, not to teach the methods of any special calling,—be it mercantile, industrial, or professional,—but to give that breadth of training which will best prepare the pupil for the ordinary duties of citizenship, and, to a certain degree, qualify him for entering any vocation, leaving special instruction to be acquired in the workshop or college.

In our common schools, there is no study which can be called ornamental except music ; and whether or not this can be justly called so, we will not now discuss. What can be more practical, in any sense of the term, than the fundamental branches—Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar, and Arithmetic? Add to these the History of the United States, and the study of Geography, and we have the entire list pursued up to the last term of the year prior to entering the High School. Would the most determined advocate of ' practical ' education desire to leave out one of these?

But besides these branches there are others which broaden the culture of the mind, and open to the pupil the higher ranges of thought. Are not these results in the direct line of a truly practical developement? It should not be necessary, at this day, to present the arguments which brought about the establishment of High Schools. They place within the reach of hundreds of our children opportunities for

advanced training which otherwise they might never secure. But here again, the principal before stated should hold good. Special training in one direction should not be required; but the stimulation of thought, the cultivation of the mind in all its varied powers, so that the pupil may be able to rely upon himself in the battle of life, and become something more than a mere machine, framed to run in one rut of the world's highway.

How have our schools fulfilled the mission hinted at in the foregoing? Imperfectly, no doubt. But the aim has been high, and progress is making each year. It is no slight problem that is presented by our common school system. The advantages afforded are, and must be, different from those of private tuition. In our own town six hundred pupils of all ages are to be classified, instructed, and, from year to year, advanced through the several grades. Provision is to be made for the incoming recruits which every spring brings to the primaries; room must be made for their reception, and after the school work is reduced to a developed plan, constant supervision is needed over the whole field. The difficulties can only be appreciated by those intimately acquainted with the system.

But a recent critic upon our schools says:

"We find by statistics that for the last ten years only about 15 per cent. of all the scholars in town ever enter the High School, and only 3 per cent. of all our scholars go through and graduate from the High School. Such being the facts the conclusion must be * * * * * that there is an undue amount expended upon a very small number in the High School."

Now let us see what the statistics do say. The following table shows the number of pupils who have entered and left the schools below the High School during ten years:

Total number of different pupils enrolled in the schools (except High School) during the year ending March 1868,	612
Total increase of different pupils from March, 1868, to March, 1877,	831
Total number of different pupils enrolled in schools (except High) during ten years,	1443
Deduct number now attending (fall and winter terms) schools, below High School,	454
Number who have left,	989

That is, 989 different pupils have entered and left the schools below the High School during the last ten years.* Of these 276 or

* These statistics are accurately compiled from the school registers of the last ten years. Every pupil found in the schools during that time having been counted, it, of course, results that the total is largly increased by the shifting portion of our population, some of whom remain in town less than a year. Of the permanent residents a much larger proportion enter the High School than is here shown.

28 per cent. have entered the High School. Again, of the 276 who have entered the High School, 86 remain, 190 have left. Of these 190, 87, or about 46 per cent., have graduated. To recapitulate, the statistics for the last ten years show that so far from it being true, that "only 15 per cent. of all our scholars ever enter the High School." *Twenty-eight per cent.* of all who have used and left our common schools in that time have entered. Further, as 46 per cent. of those entering have graduated, it follows that should this proportion be maintained until the 86 pupils now in the school have passed out, — and there is no reason to suppose it will not, — then about 13 per cent. of all who have left our schools in ten years will have completed the course, instead of 3 per cent. as quoted.*

High schools have been established by law. Such a school must be supported here for at least 36 weeks in each year. Taking the State at large (1876) less than 5 per cent. of the pupils attending the public schools are found in the high schools. Ten years ago 10 per cent. of all the pupils in this town were within our High School, and the ratio has steadily increased until to-day 16 per cent. are found there,—*more than three times the average ratio for the State.* The increased attendance has been largely owing to the higher estimation in which the school has been held by our people, and to the progressive character it has maintained during the period named. A question may arise here as to the grade of our school. Two grades of high schools are contemplated by the law, the higher being required for towns of 4,000 inhabitants. Besides the studies taught in the lower grade, pupils in our school receive instruction in all but three of those required for the higher grade,† and may, if they wish, take German outside the regular school hours.

Let any one examine the record of the young men who have left our High School. They will find that a large per cent. of their number have taken honorable and lucrative stations in life. Some of the best teachers of both sexes in our own and neighboring towns are members of its alumni. It is no faint tribute to the excellence of the school to say that its graduates have been found among those best prepared to enter higher institutions of learning. But we do not forget that the school-days of many will, for various reasons, end in the grammar schools, or that in them, and in the primaries, the foundation is laid for those who are able to go higher. The old fallacy,

* Nearly 9 per cent. have already done so.

† Logic, Intellectual and Moral Science, and Political Economy.

"that anybody can teach a primary school," is, happily, passing away. The work to be done in these lower schools is of the highest importance, and no effort should be spared to perfect this work and to enhance their usefulness.

Now as to the question of cost. We present a few figures showing the average amounts expended in maintaining public schools in neighboring parts of the State. A comparison between them and similar expenditures in Reading, during the past year, is interesting and instructive.

Taking the four most populous counties of the State, Suffolk, Middlesex, Essex, and Worcester, we find the average salary of principals of high schools to be $205.47 per month. For Middlesex and Essex alone the average is $157.46. For Middlesex alone, $161.90. Reading has paid for the past year $157.89.

Again we find the average salary paid female teachers to be, for the four counties, $43.13 per month. For Middlesex and Essex, $40.74. For Middlesex, $41.97. Reading has paid $41.35.* These averages (except Reading) are taken from statistics given in the last report of the State Board of Education, issued January, 1877, and show that reductions made during the year have carried our salaries below the average amount paid March, 1876, in the four counties combined; slightly below the average paid in our own county, and about to the average paid in Essex and Middlesex combined. The following statistics are from other sources; those relating to high schools being furnished by the Secretary of the School Committee in each town referred to:

The average amount expended for each pupil in the public schools of the State (1875–6), exclusive of erecting and repairing school-buildings, was $15.26. Average amount expended in Reading for same (1876–7), $13.95. These amounts are based in each case on the whole number of pupils enrolled.

Taking five towns of Middlesex county — Lexington, Winchester, Holliston, Ashland, and Everett — and three in other parts of the State — West Springfield, East Bridgewater, and North Andover — we find the average cost per pupil for high-school instruction, for 1876–7, to be $31.96. Reading has paid for same, $25.93. The above towns were selected for comparison for the reason that the number of pupils of all ages, in each town, approximated the number

* In obtaining this average the salary paid in the Main Street School is included. A male teacher is at present employed in this school, but the salary was fixed for a female incumbent, and is the same as paid female teachers of the same grade.

in our own — the average number being 599. In point of valuation, four of these towns exceed Reading, and four fall below.

Lexington and Winchester, with high schools of 60 and 57 pupils, respectively, employ a principal and *two* assistants for each. Reading, with a much larger school, employs a principal and *one* assistant.

We give these figures without comment. A consideration of them will, we are confident, aid in deciding whether or not our schools have been economically conducted, and whether an undue amount has been expended upon the High School.

PERSONAL.

The resignation of Dr. John O. Dow, a member of the Committee, on the day of his election by the town, was filled by the choice of W. Wallace Davis, Esq.

Later in the year, the Chairman of the Board, Carroll D. Wright, Esq., tendered his resignation. Mr. Wright had been connected with the Board for several years, and was one of its most useful and valued members. His efforts have ever been exerted toward the improvement of our schools, and especially toward securing a thorough English course in the High School. We regret that the pressure of other duties, and the condition of his health, caused us the loss of his services. The vacancy in membership was filled by the choice of Rev. George T. Dole.

The schools were assigned, at the beginning of the year, to the members of the Committee individually, — each member having charge of two schools, — thus securing a certain amount of personal oversight and responsibility. A list of these assignments is appended. Sixteen meetings have been held by the Committee during the year. Hereafter, by a vote of the Committee, regular meetings will be held at the Town Office on the second Thursday of each month, at 7:30 o'clock P. M. Three vacancies occur, to be filled at the ensuing annual meeting; the terms of Messrs. Parker, Davis, and Dole, expiring.

EXPENSES AND ESTIMATES.

The Committee were obliged, on account of the reduced appropriation made by the town at its last annual meeting, to make reductions in the salaries of teachers.

These reductions were made in the manner deemed most equitable by the Board, and were principally applied to the higher salaries, the lower being already so low as to scarcely admit of further reduction.

The pay of two teachers was slightly advanced to place them upon equality with others of the same grade, and in fulfilment of obligations previously incurred by the Committee. A change in the janitorship of the Centre school-buildings effected further retrenchment. By these reductions we have been able to keep within the limit set by the town. In the matter of incidentals the utmost care has been used in the disbursement of the amount appropriated. A statement of expenditures in detail is submitted. The Committee believe it to be good policy to put one building each year in thorough repair; and with this end in view the Woburn Street Schoolhouse has been painted inside and out and the entries replastered. The only large item of expsnse besides this was incurred at the Medium Schoolhouse on Union street, the roof of which it was found necessary to shingle.

Attention is invited to the statistics contained in the Appendix.

The Committee recommend the following appropriations for the ensuing year:

For support of schools, including instruction in music -	$8500 00
For incidentals - - - - - -	1000 00

Respectfully submitted,

WALTER S. PARKER,
Chairman,
SOLON BANCROFT,
WILLIAM F. DURGIN,
W. WALLACE DAVIS,
GEORGE T. DOLE,
HORACE G. WADLIN,
Secretary,
} Committee.

Reading, March, 1876.

Appendix.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Population of Reading	3186
Number of children between 5 and 15 years of age, May, 1876	482
Amount appropriated for instruction and care of rooms	$8500 00
" " " incidentals	1000 00
" received from State School Fund	232 46
Total receipts for support of schools	9732 46
Expended for instruction and care of rooms	8361 30
Expended for incidentals	936 91
Total expenditures	9298 21
Balance unexpended	434 25

PUPILS.

Whole number of pupils enrolled during year	599
Average whole number (from returns of each term)	513
Average daily attendance	458
Number of pupils admitted to High School	34
Average age " " " "	15 yrs. 6 mos.
Average number of pupils to each teacher in High School	41
" " " " " Centre Grammar Schools	39
" " " " " Medium Schools	36
" " " " " Centre Primary Schools	47
" " " " " Mixed Schools	25

Length of terms: 1st, 12 weeks; 2d, 13 weeks; 3d, 13 weeks; total, 38 weeks, or 9½ months.

NAMES OF PUPILS GRADUATING FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL, JUNE, 1876.

Lucy A. Barrows,
Elmer J. Brown,
Frederic E. Brown,
Maria W. Carter,
Minnie L. Carter,
Lillian F. Gray,
Clarence C. Knight,
Addie L. Nichols,
Carrie F. Nichols,
Flora A. Niles,
Frederic M. Phillips,
Jessie E. Stockwell,
William G. Willcox.

LIST OF COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS, 1876–7.

HIGH SCHOOL — The Entire Committee.
FIRST GRAMMAR — Mr. Wadlin.
SECOND GRAMMAR — Mr. Parker.

THIRD GRAMMAR — Mr. Bancroft.
UPPER MEDIUM — { Mr. Wright — Spring term. Mr. Dole — Fall and Winter terms.
LOWER MEDIUM — Mr. Dargin.
UPPER PRIMARY — Mr. Wadlin.
LOWER PRIMARY — Mr. Parker.
WALNUT STREET MIXED — Mr. Bancroft.
WOBURN STREET SCHOOLS — Mr. Dargin.
LOWELL STREET MIXED — { Mr. Wright — Spring term. Mr. Davis — Fall and Winter terms.
MAIN STREET MIXED — Mr. Davis.
HAVERHILL STREET MIXED — { Mr. Davis — Spring term. Mr. Dole — Fall and Winter terms.

ROLL OF HONOR.

Giving the names of those who have not been absent or tardy since March, 1876, and the schools to which they belong.

HIGH SCHOOL.

HATTIE C. EMERSON, MARY F. EATON.

FIRST GRAMMAR.

GEORGE E. HOWES, MARIA BAKER,
ANNIE V. WILLCOX, HANNAH E. HIBBERT.

SECOND GRAMMAR.

GRACE BROWN, SYLVINA MOULTON,
ALICE HOWARD, MARGARET M. WHELTON.

THIRD GRAMMAR.

ANNIE M. MOULTON.

UPPER MEDIUM.

WALTER KINGMAN, KATE M. TROWE.

LOWER MEDIUM.

CHARLES MESSER, GRACE PARKER, HATTIE WALKER,
MARY NICHOLS, ANNIE WHELTON,

UPPER PRIMARY.

WILLIAM BARROWS MCKAY.

WALNUT STREET SCHOOL.

CHARLES HUNTER, CORA HUNTER, HATTIE STONE.

LOWELL STREET SCHOOL.

HENRY NICHOLS, GEORGE H. HILL,

MAIN STREET SCHOOL.

PHILIP EMERSON.

TABLE SHOWING SALARIES AND ATTENDANCE.

NOTE :—By comparing the two columns of salaries given, the change made during the year may be seen.

NAMES OF SCHOOLS.	Salary paid in each school 1875-6.	TEACHERS AT PRESENT EMPLOYED.	Salary paid in each school 1876-7.	NUMBER OF SCHOLARS.			AVERAGE ATTENDANCE.			Under 5 years	OVER 15 YEARS.		
				1st term	2nd term	3rd term	1st term	2nd term	3rd term		1st term	2nd term	3rd term
High School,	$1800	Cyrus A. Cole. Principal,	$1500	69	88	86	67	83	83		56	66	68
	700	Miss Martha Keith, Ass't,	600										
First Grammar,	500	Jennie R. Barrus,	500	36	31	32	32	30	29		19	9	11
Second Grammar,	500	Sarah L. Stoodley,	450	35	34	35	32	32	32		1	1	6
Third Grammar,	450	Annie M. Knight,	450	41	53	54	36	50	50				
Upper Medium,	450	E. S. Foster.	400	57	33	31	52	29	28				
Lower Medium,	350	Addie B. Howes,	400	35	31	29	32	30	27				
Union St. Upper Primary,	450	Mrs. S. A. Goodridge,	400	49	40	40	46	34	34				
Union St. Lower Primary,	450	Miss Ruth L. Pratt,	400	61	50	40	51	39	32	2			
Walnut St. Mixed,*	350	Sadie R. Lindsay,	400	51	48	37	41	41	32	1			1
Woburn St. Grammar,	400	E. F. Wheelock,	350	19	29	27	17	25	22				
Woburn St. Primary,	300	L. F. Loring,	300	22	26	24	19	21	22	1			
Lowell St. Mixed,	300	E. Barrows,	300	25	29	25	22	26	20	1	1	2	2
Main St. Mixed,	300	Mr. L. F. Elliott,	300	17	17	17	16	15	15		1	1	
Haverhill St. Mixed,	300	Miss Z. A. Wakefield,	250	13	15	9	12	11	7	1			
				530	524	486	475	466	433	6	78	79	88

* Miss Mary A. Lindsay, temporary assistant, $1 per week.

Course of Instruction.

LOWER PRIMARY, — TWO YEARS.

FIRST YEAR, — FIRST TERM.

Reading. — Exercises on the Charts. Franklin Primer. Spell simple words of one syllable. Practice in learning words as well as letters.

Numbers. — Count as high as ten, using counters or similar objects. Show how to add, subtract, multiply and divide within the limit of ten. Exercises to be short and without set lessons or times.

Writing. — Allow the use of the slate, with simple combinations of lines to be copied from the blackboard.

SECOND AND THIRD TERMS.

Reading. — Complete the Primer. Use its lessons in spelling. Use the blackboard freely and train the pupils in advance upon their lessons.

Numbers. — Practice in counting as high as one hundred. Practice in reading numbers within this limit, both in Arabic and Roman numerals. Practice in adding and subtracting small numbers.

Writing. — Practice with the slate. Each pupil to write his own name with the capitals therein, and the capital I. Copy from the blackboard or the primer easy words in printing on the slate.

Oral Lessons. — Oral Instruction daily throughout the year. Familiar talks about simple subjects, such as the pictures in the Primer, books, flowers, &c., also the use of the period in sentences.

SECOND YEAR.

Reading. — Franklin 2d Reader. Special attention to tones in reading, spelling and conversation. Oral, written and Phonic spelling in connection with the reader. Primary Speller. Frequent blackboard exercises in spelling home and school-room objects.

Numbers. — Reading and writing small numbers. Practice in adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing, within the limit of twenty. In adding so arrange that the sum of no two figures of the same order shall exceed nine. Practice in the Roman numerals to the extent used in numbering the lessons in the books of the grade. Walton's Primary Arithmetic begun.

Oral Lessons.—Daily oral instruction throughout the year. The common domestic animals, their uses and how to treat them. Introduce the colors of the spectrum and illustrate by use of the Prism. Color as shown in natural objects, such as rocks, grass, trees, &c. How to tell time by the clock. Train the

child's powers of observation by talks on the uses of common school-room objects, such as the stove, the blackboard, thermometer, and anything easily understood.

UPPER PRIMARY, — ONE YEAR.

Reading. — Franklin 3d Reader. Worcester's Primary Spelling Book, to page 80. Spelling and defining from the Reader. Practice on the use of capitals; on the marks indicating pronunciation and punctuation. To know the names and marking of all the long vowels and the Italian A. Pay special attention to inflection and emphasis in reading.

Numbers.— Walton's Primary Arithmetic, entire book. Much practice on the tables. Reading and writing numbers up to a million. Practice on the Charts.

Writing. — Parts 1 and 2 of Dunton's Writing Primer. Nos. 1 and 2 of Dunton's Writing Books. Copy sentences, &c., from the blackboard.

Oral Lessons.— Lessons on color, weight, and size, with illustrations. Points of the Compass. Measures of length and capacity, and their uses. On the Three Kingdoms of nature. Reading and illustrations from the Child's Book of Nature. Lessons on the divisions of time.

Drawing. — Drawing Book No. ———

LOWER MEDIUM,—ONE YEAR.

Reading. — Franklin 4th Reader, first fifty selections, with exercises in enunciation Practice on the marks of printing, and their uses. Reading from the Child's Book of Nature. Spelling and defining from the reader. Swinton's Word Book to page 43, and review.

Numbers. — Intellectual Arithmetic as far as ————. Eaton's Common School Arithmetic, to page 55. Much practice on the tables. Miscellaneous questions in the use of small numbers, and in rapid combinations. Reading and writing both Roman and Arabic numerals.

Writing. — Nos. 1, 2, and 3 of Dunton's series.

Geography. — Guyot's Primary Geography.

Language. — Instruction without text book, in distinguishing familiar nouns, in the use of capitals and in correcting common grammatical errors of speech. Formation of easy sentences.

Oral Lessons.— Conversation on animals and natural objects; on articles eaten and worn; on colors; on clothing, and materials which enter into its composition.

Drawing. — Drawing Book No. 1.

UPPER MEDIUM,—ONE YEAR.

Reading. — Franklin 4th Reader completed; after which selections from Franklin Fifth; also, from the Child's Book of Nature. Spelling and defining from the reader. Swinton's Word Book, to page 80, and review.

Numbers. — Eaton's Written Arithmetic from page 30 to page 92, with review from beginning of book. Intellectual Arithmetic on corresponding topics. Miscellaneous exercises in rapid combinations.

Language. — Oral instruction in the elements of grammar, without text book. Swinton's Language Lessons.

Geography, First Term. — Guyot's Primary Geography.

Geography, Second and Third Terms. — Warren's Common School Geography. Map drawing throughout the year.

Writing. — Nos. 3 and 4 of Dunton's series.

Oral Lessons. — Talks on the eminent men of past and present time, authors, statesmen, &c. On the qualities which made them eminent. What elements of their character should be avoided and what imitated. On trades and materials.

Drawing. — Drawing Book No. 2.

THIRD GRAMMAR,—ONE YEAR.

Reading. — Franklin 5th Reader, sixty selections. Give special attention to enunciation, emphasis, and to the meaning; also to the exercises at the end of each selection. Oral and written spelling and defining from the Reader. Swinton's Word Book to page 100, and review.

Numbers. — Eaton's Common School Arithmetic, from page 92 to 183, omitting from page 171 to 176. Review of entire book to the limit of the year's work. Intellectual Arithmetic on same topics, with exercises in rapid combinations.

Language. — Swinton's "Language Lessons" to page 97. Constant practice on correct forms of expression and sentence making. Simple exercises in composition Declamati ns.

Writing. — Nos. 4 and 5 of Dunton's series. Principles of Ltter fo rms.

Geography. — Warren's Common School Geography, to page 53. Map Drawing.

History. — Barnes' U. S. History to page 161, and review.

Oral Lessons. — Talks on the classification of animals. On the structure of plants. On the properties of matter, as elasticity, ductility, &c., with illustrations.

Drawing. — Drawing Book No. 3.

SECOND GRAMMAR,—ONE YEAR.

Reading. — Franklin 6th Reader, 250 pages, with attention to the introductory matter. Complete Swinton's Word Book, with reviews. Spelling and defining largely from the Reader. Spelling to be both oral and written.

Numbers. — Eaton's Common School Arithmetic, from page 183 to Profit and Loss, page 242; the last fifteen pages optional with the teacher. Intellectual Arithmetic on the same topics. Exercises in rapid combinations.

Language. — Swinton's "Language Lessons." Compositions. Letter Writing. Declamations. Written Abstracts from lessons in History.

Writing. — Nos. 5 and 6 of Dunton's series.

Geography. — Warren's Common School Geography to page 86. Map Drawing.

History. — Barnes' U. S. History from page 161 to close, and review of entire book.

Oral Lessons. — Daily talks on common facts in Physiology and Natural Philosophy.

Drawing. — Drawing Book No. 4.

FIRST GRAMMAR, — ONE YEAR.

Reading. — Complete Franklin 6th Reader, with special attention to the introductory matter. Oral and written spelling and defining from the Reader and Swinton's Word Book.

Numbers. — Complete Eaton's Common School Arithmetic, and review entire book, with special reference to the discussion of principles. Exercises in Intellectual Arithmetic, including rapid combinations.

Language. — Syntactical parsing. Analysis. Compositions and epistolary correspondence. Written abstracts of lessons in History. Practice in changing the poetical selections in the Reader into prose. Give synonyms of words occurring in the reading lessons. Kerl's "Shorter Course in English Grammar."

Writing. — Nos. 6 and 7 of Dunton's series.

Geography. — Complete Warren's Common School Geography. Guyot's Physical Geography. Map Drawing.

History. — English History to complete. Reviews on United States History.

Physiology. — Jarvis' Physiology.

Drawing. — Drawing Book No. 5.

HIGH SCHOOL.

English and Scientific Course.

FIRST YEAR.

First Term. — Algebra, Chemistry, English Language.

Second Term. — Algebra, Chemistry and Mineralogy, English Language, Bookkeeping.

Third Term. — Geometry, Botany, English Language, Bookkeeping.

SECOND YEAR.

First Term. — Geometry, Natural Philosophy, English Language.

SECOND TERM. — Advanced Arithmetic or Trigonometry, Natural Philosophy, English Language.

THIRD TERM. — Zoology, Natural Philosophy, English Language.

THIRD YEAR.

FIRST TERM. — Geology, History and Civil Government, English Language.

SECOND TERM. — Geology and Astronomy, History and Civil Government, English Language.

THIRD TERM. — Astronomy, Mental Science, English Language.

By adding a year to the English course, pupils may commence Latin the first year, and French the second or third year. German may be substituted for French.

Review Studies: Geography and Arithmetic.

Music is taught in all the schools, under the direction of a special teacher.

Expenses of Schools.

HIGH SCHOOL.

Paid Mr. Cyrus A. Cole, principal, - -	$1500 00	
Miss Martha Keith, assistant, - -	600 00	
For fuel, - - - - -	99 22	
		$2199 22

FIRST GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Paid Miss Ida M. Daniels, for teaching, -	$41 50	
Miss Jennie R. Barrus, " -	458 50	
For fuel, - - - - -	49 61	
		$549 61

SECOND GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Paid Miss Sarah L. Stoodley, for teaching,	$450 00	
For fuel, - - - - -	49 61	
		$499 61

THIRD GRAMMAR SCHOOL—UNION STREET.

Paid Miss Clara L. Bancroft, for teaching, -	$120 00	
Miss Annie M. Knight, " -	300 00	
Miss Kate Wilson, " -	6 00	
For fuel, - - - - -	36 50	
		$462 50

UPPER MEDIUM SCHOOL—UNION STREET.

Paid Miss Evelyn S. Foster, for teaching, -	$400 00	
For fuel, - - - - -	29 85	
		$429 85

LOWER MEDIUM SCHOOL—UNION STREET.

Paid Miss Addie B. Howes, for teaching, -	$383 67	
For fuel, - - - - -	29 84	
		$413 51
AMOUNT CARRIED FORWARD,		$4554 30

Amount Brought Forward,		$4554 30

UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOL—UNION STREET.

Paid Mrs. Sarah A. Goodridge, for teaching, -	$400 00	
For fuel, - - - - - -	13 69	
		$413 69

LOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL—UNION STREET.

Paid Miss Ruth L. Pratt, for teaching, -	$400 00	
For fuel, - - , - -	13 68	
		$413 68

WALNUT STREET MIXED SCHOOL.

Paid Miss Sadie R. Lindsay, for teaching, -	$383 32	
Miss Mary A. Lindsay, assistant 22 1-2 weeks,	22 50	
For fuel, - - - - -	33 12	
		$438 94

WOBURN STREET GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Paid Miss Helen M. Clark, for teaching, -	$116 64	
Miss E. F. Wheelock, " -	223 56	
For fuel, - - - - -	53 95	
		$394 15

WOBURN STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Paid Miss Lillian F. Loring, for teaching, -	$233 34	
Miss Evelyn C. Bancroft, " -	66 66	
For fuel, - - - - -	27 97	
		$327 97

LOWELL STREET MIXED SCHOOL.

Paid Miss E. Barrows, for teaching, - -	$300 00	
For fuel, - - , -	44 63	
" " 1875, - - - -	8 00	
		$352 63

MAIN STREET MIXED SCHOOL.

Paid Mr. L. P. Howard, for teaching, - -	$266 65	
Mr. L. F. Elliott, " -	33 35	
For fuel, - - - - -	29 81	
		$329 81
Amount Carried Forward,		$7225 17

Amount Brought Forward,		$7225 17

HAVERIHLL STREET MIXED SCHOOL.

Paid Miss Z. Abbie Wakefield, for teaching, -	$250 00	
For fuel, - - - - - -	25 88	
		$275 88

MUSICAL INSTRUCTION.

Paid Mr. Henry G. Carey, for teaching, -	$100 00	
Mr. Ulmer H. Manning, " -	200 00	
		$300 00

JANITORS.

Paid Charles H. Robinson, Centre School buildings, 12 weeks, - - - -	$144 00	
Frank E. Brooks, Centre School buildings, 26 weeks, - - - - -	221 00	
Janitor, Walnut Street School, for one year,	44 50	
" Woburn " " "	62 00	
" Lowell " " "	31 75	
" Main " " "	28 50	
" Haverhill " " "	28 50	
		$560 25
Total amount expended, - - - -		$8361 30
Unexpended, - - - - - -		371 16
Appropriation, - - - - -	$8500 00	
Received from State School fund, - -	232 46	
	$8732 46	$8732 46

INCIDENTAL SCHOOL EXPENSES.

Paid Thompson, Brown & Co., for school charts,	$48 00	
J. L. Hammett, for maps,	20 00	
John S. Hayes, for maps,	60 00	
F. J. Bancroft, for books and stationery,	18 58	
N. W. Broad, for repairs,	19 25	
F. J. Bancroft, rent of piano, and tuning,	11 00	
Amount Carried Forward,		$176 83

Amount Brought Forward,	$176	83
Paid Hill & Co., for printing,	10	75
Lockwood & Brooks, 5 copies Webster's Dictionary,	28	80
W. H. Baker, wheelbarrow, 1875,	8	50
J. C. Cook, amount of contract for painting Woburn Street School-house,	68	00
J. C. Cook, extra work on roof of Woburn Street School-house,	8	75
E. Wight, labor and stock for repairs,	35	94
J. C. Cook, repairs Union Hall,	44	95
Bancroft & Temple, shingling Medium School-house, amount of contract,	183	02
Bancroft & Temple; stock and labor for sheathing entries Medium School-house,	21	34
M. A. Stone, sundries,	6	20
W. W. Davis, sundries,	10	80
J. H. Bazin, sundries,	10	00
J. L. Hammett, sundries,	3	30
James H. Griggs, labor,	3	50
Charles H. Lang, expressage, keys, &c.,	11	50
Amos McIntire, painting at Medium School-house,	32	18
Edward Parker, mason work at Woburn Street and Walnut Street School-houses, and sundry repairs,	50	92
Clarence Barbarick, labor,	5	00
Moses E. Nichols, setting glass,	1	40
Hayward & Allen, sundries,	3	97
Joseph L. Ross, school-desks,	27	40
Warren Hayward, labor,	1	50
Moses Barbarick, cleaning school-house,	2	25
Bancroft & Temple, repairs,	7	07
M. Hanley, sundries,	1	60
Fred. DeJean, coal stove for Haverhill Street School-house, and other repairs,	50	23
M. H. Garfield, painting,	1	00
C. A. Allen, sundries,	3	32
W. O. Haskell, casting for desk,	1	00
Amount Carried Forward,		$821 02

	Amount Brought Forward,	$821 02	
Paid	A. W. Danforth, stationery,	50	
	George Beasley, grading at Medium School-house,	3 30	
	James A. Bancroft, insurance on piano,	4 00	
	George W. Atkinson, broom,	45	
	Parker & Stone, sundries,	4 05	
	O. N. Willis, repairing and cleaning,	11 22	
	Jesse Frost, repairing clock,	25	
	T. Littlefield, stove for Lower Primary School, and sundries,	55 90	
	James Reid, sundries,	20	
	George I. Batchelder, rent of lot, Main Street School house,	5 00	
	J. N. Nichols, setting glass,	1 70	
	W. W. Davis, cash paid for books,	4 94	
	F. J. Bancroft, books for pupils,	16 38	
	W. W. Davis, books for pupils,	2 25	
	L. E. Gleason, postage stamps,	1 00	
	L. E. Gleason, stationery,	4 75	
	Total amount expended,		$936 91
	Unexpended,		63 09
	Appropriation,		$1000 00

TOWN WARRANT.

MIDDLESEX, ss.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Reading,

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Reading qualified to vote in elections and town affairs to meet in Lyceum Hall, in said town, on MONDAY, the SECOND day of APRIL, A. D. 1877, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon, to act on the following articles, viz:

ART. 1.—To choose a Moderator.

ART. 2.—To hear and act on the reports of the Auditors, Treasurer, Collectors, Selectmen, Assessors, Overseers of the Poor, School Committee, Road Commissioners, Engineers of the Fire Department, Trustees of the Public Library, Trustees of the Cemetery and Committees.

ART. 3.—To see if the Town will determine the compensation of its officers.

ART. 4.—To choose a Town Clerk, Selectmen, Assessors, Overseers of the Poor, Treasurer, Collector, two School Committee for three years and one for one year, one Road Commissioner for three years, and all other necessary town officers for the ensuing year.

ART. 5.—To see if the Town will revoke its acceptance of the provisions of the 158th chapter of the laws of this State enacted in the year 1871, and abolish the Board of Road Commissioners chosen and constituted under said law, or what they will do in relation thereto.

ART. 6.—To see how much money the Town will raise to defray the ordinary expenses of the ensuing year.

ART. 7.—To see how much money the Town will raise for the support of Schools, and how much for incidental school

expenses, for the ensuing year.

ART. 8.—To determine how much money the Town will raise for the repair of Highways and Townways, and how the same shall be expended.

ART. 9.—To determine how much money the Town will raise for the support of the Public Library the ensuing year.

ART. 10.—To determine how much money the Town will raise for defraying the expense of the Fire Department the ensuing year.

ART. 11.—To determine how much money the Town will raise for the improvement of the Cemetery the ensuing year.

ART. 12.—To determine how much money the Town will raise for the repair and decoration of Soldiers' Graves.

ART. 13.—To determine how much money the Town will raise to pay Interest on the Town Debt.

ART. 14.—To see if the Town will establish a Sinking Fund for the extinguishment of its general indebtedness, elect Commissioners thereof, and make appropriation thereto under the provisions of Chapter 209, Acts of 1875.

ART. 15.—To determine how much money the Town will raise towards paying the Town Debt.

ART. 16.—To see what action the Town will take in regard to employing Watchmen the ensuing year.

ART. 17.—To see if the Town will give the Selectmen any instructions with regard to Licensing the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors, or take any action upon the subject of the suppression of such sale.

ART. 18.—To see what instructions the Town will give their Collector.

ART. 19.—To see if the Town will authorize the Treasurer to Hire Money, under the direction of the Selectmen, in anticipation of Taxes.

ART. 20.—To see if the Town will authorize the Treasurer to Hire Money to meet the payment of a note of $10,000, due City Institution for Savings, Lowell, July 27th, 1877.

ART. 21.—To see for what purpose the Town will appropriate the money received for Dog Licenses.

ART. 22.—To see if the Town will build a sidewalk on the westerly side of Ash Street, from the Railroad to Avon Street.

ART. 23.—To hear and act on a report of the Road Commissioners in relation to laying out a Townway from Woburn Street to Fremont Street.

ART. 24.—To see what instruction the Town will give their Officers in charge of the Highways in regard to removing snow from sidewalks and footpaths.

ART. 25.—To see if the Town will authorize the Road Commissioners to purchase a Rut Scraper for use on the highways.

ART. 26.—To hear and act on a list of Jurors prepared by the Selectmen.

ART. 27.—To hear and act on a report of the Road Commissioners in relation to guide posts.

ART. 28.—To see if the Town will put in a Pump on the corner of Ash and Washington Streets, or what they will do in relation thereto.

HEREOF FAIL NOT, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, on or before the time appointed for said meeting.

Given under our hands this Twenty-second day of March, A. D. 1877.

JOSEPH L. PRATT,
J. B. LEATHE,
JAMES REID,
} SELECTMEN OF READING.

A true copy.—Attest, H. E. COX, Constable of Reading.

READING, March 24, 1877.